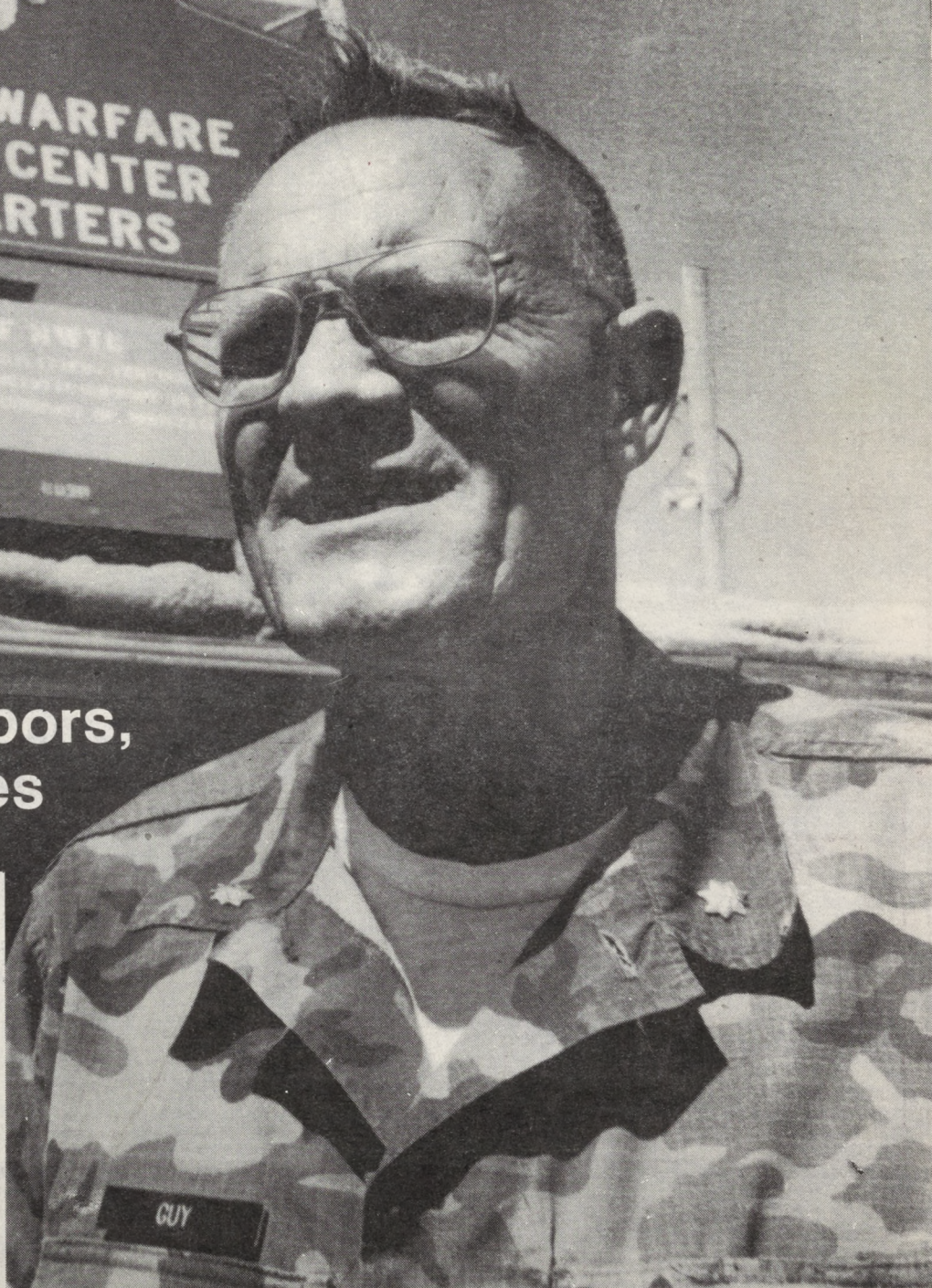
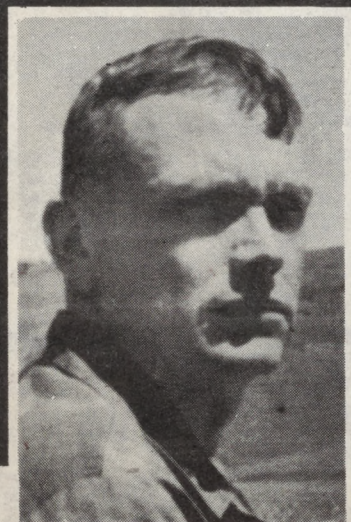


The **NEWS-**
Inyo-Mono **LETTER**

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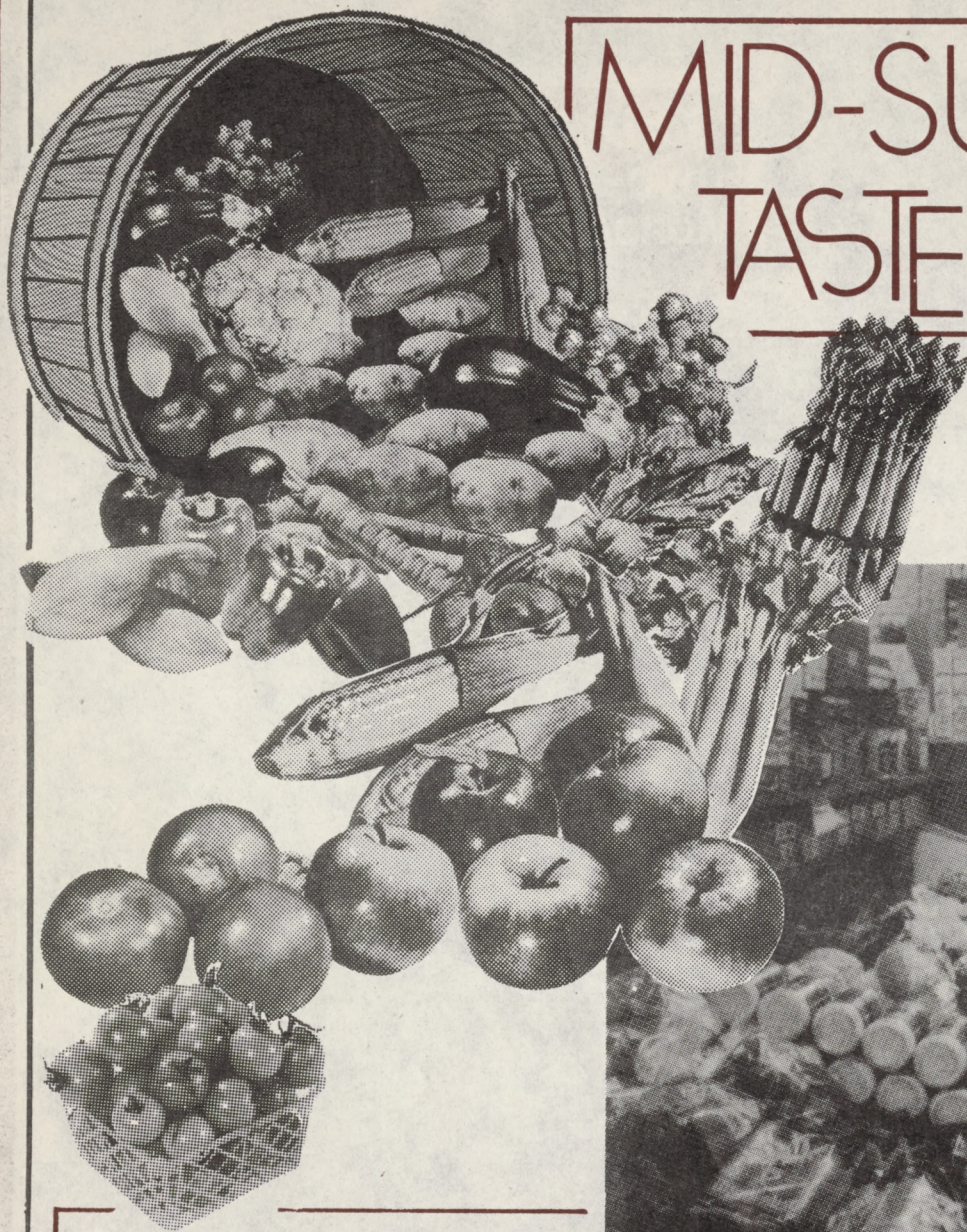
Major Heck, Colonel Guy

JULY/75¢

100 mph police chase - Action photos P24

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The Marines' Lt. Col. Guy

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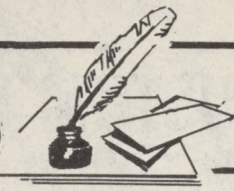
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FORUM your view



The News-Letter welcomes readers' letters and comments relevant to public issues. Letters should be brief and concisely stated. The editors remind readers that publication of a letter does not necessarily imply either the editor's agreement with its content, or its accuracy. Address letters to PO Box 531, Independence, California 93526.

John Heston, editor

"VANISHING MOUNTAINS" - AND BLUE SKIES ON THE HORIZONS OF PETE PEARSON'S PROSE

Editors:

In regards to your June story, "The Valley's Vanishing Mountains", I would like to tell you a little story of my own:

When I returned to Southern California, after an overseas stint with the Armed Forces, 1969, I was faced with a concern new to us "flatlanders". It was called, and still is, a "smog alert". As it happened one day, the news media casually reported that the air was unfit to breathe. It was suggested that people stay indoors, use the air-conditioner and not exert oneself until the wind blew the lethal chemical clouds over to Arizona or wherever such airborne poisons do go. From my views, most of the citizenry remained unmoved by this alert as they had previously accustomed themselves to such nuisances. It was in part due to the burnt-orange haze that I transplanted myself to the Owens Valley, January 1971.

The sky was blue here, the clouds were white and at night, I could make my neck ache by observing the firmament in all its glory. In Riverside, as a child, we had clear skys and twinkling stars. When smog would come in from L.A., it was but an occasional happening. Now, the complete opposite holds true and that is why the clear sky and the good air have always been appreciated by myself as well as others who have witnessed the other side of the coin.

I suspect that folks come up from L.A. to get a chest full of good air and to gaze at the clouds floating past against a background of heavenly blue. I imagine this, a possible flatlander conversation:

"Daddy, what's wrong with the sky?"

"What do you mean son?"

"Well, its turned blue!"

"It sure is. You know, when I was a kid in L.A., I remember when we used to look up at that big, blue sky, lying on the grass on a sunny afternoon, and watch the clouds pass by. We would imagine their shapes to be many things. Some looked like dogs or cats or lions and people. But that was a long time ago."

"I never saw blue sky before, Daddy. And I'm ten years old!"

Presently, we are still fortunate here, as the sky is usually clear and fortunate too

that people in the smog-filled valleys of "down south" can ride up in a few short hours and breathe this good air. It is a paradise in which to seek refuge during a vacation or for a short weekend excursion. But alas, the seeds of destruction are already sown and we have watched them sprout in the form of a malignant dust from, as I understand it, the bed of the dry Owens Lake and the ever widening shores of Mono Lake.

The Department of Water and Power, Los Angeles, ah me! They bought most of the land here, some say fair and square, some say otherwise, along with water rights. However, they *do* have it. Fine. But by God, can't there be some logical way to curb this raping of the very atmosphere you and I breathe? Some say the ground water pumping is causing havoc with the plant and animal ecological systems. Some species are extinct, or near extinction, and are we not, as men, in jeopardy as well? How ironic that man has the ways and means to reverse these conditions and yet, does very little.

Ten years from now, I picture my family traveling up to the Canadian Rockies. My son says, "Pop, what's wrong with the sky? It's blue!" Will I be telling him what that fellow from L.A. tells his son now, except I'll be talking about the Owens Valley?

Solution? Well, I can only comment that it is not tying red ribbons on dead willows, a noble gesture and creative protest. However, if David (of Biblical fame) were to converse with us about his feat of days gone by, I am sure he would indicate, had he used the red ribbon approach, the scriptures would read differently... "And when Goliath saw David tying red ribbons upon a bush, Goliath stuffed David's head into a gopher hole where David slowly smothered to death."

Peter Pearson
Bishop

(Editor's note: So enamored was News-Letter with Mr. Pearson's prose, presented here and in past publications, that the editor recently concluded an arrangement whereby Mr. Pearson's journalistic outpourings will henceforth appear not on the Forum Page, but in the regular news and

feature columns. He will represent News-Letter as reporter-photographer in the Bishop area.)

THE SCHAT'S STRIKE: FOUR-PRONGED NAILS AND SUGAR IN THE GAS TANK

Dear Editor and Staff:

After reading the letter written by union agent, Pete Peters, in your June issue, I feel I need to reply to some of the statements that were made.

We do not "coldly" use children between the ages of 12 and 16 to work on dangerous equipment as was indicated by Mr. Peters. I do indeed provide opportunities for High School kids to work and earn some spending money. I feel very strongly about this, as our young people in Bishop have very few places where they can even find work, or earn more than the minimum wage.

As far as the picketers are concerned, I can't help but notice that some of them have never even worked for us, and since almost 40 persons walked out (which should be more than adequate to man the picket line), this leads me to believe that many have either moved or found other jobs.

When this letter is published in July, the strike will be five months old. During that time a couple of incidents have happened which disturb me. First, there was the time a few weeks ago when someone tossed numerous, specially constructed 4-prong nails on our parking lot causing a number of flat tires on our long-haul trucks. If a front tire had blown, it could have resulted in a very serious accident, not only for our driver but perhaps for other travelers on the highway at the same time. We were lucky! Second, someone just recently dumped sugar in the fuel tanks of two of our diesel trucks causing considerable delays in deliveries, but fortunately no major damage. Again, we were lucky!

When I discussed these problems with Mr. Peters, his answer was that they (the Union) had nothing to do with any of that, and therefore, some local people must have done it. Granted, there may be local people who disagree with Schat's, but I don't believe that any of our local residents would stoop that low, and it concerns me that the union agent would even sug-

gest that the people living here would do this. That is the kind of stuff they moved from the big city areas to get away from.

Finally, in all this time the union has made absolutely no attempt to solve our differences. All the union has done is to try and disrupt our business, which leads me to believe that it's their primary intention to harm us in whatever ways possible, and perhaps even destroy our business itself. This attitude disturbs me enormously, and should be a real concern for others who live in Bishop as well and have had the struggle of starting and maintaining a business on their own.

Thanks for listening,

Dan Schat
Bishop

(Editor's note: Mr. Schat's point is well taken, but he is naive to believe that "local people" hold themselves above dangerous vandalism. News-Letter's own staff members have been bombed (twice), vandalized (sand and water in vehicle motors; communications equipment damaged, etc.), and the editor is inclined to share Mr. Schat's concern. News-Letter's own investigations have failed to turn up evidence that the union itself is guilty of the depredations he mentions.)

HERRING CANDIDACY: A QUESTION OF RESIDENCY

Dear Editor -

Most recently returned to your area to witness a rather distasteful flaw in the political process, that being the supervisors race for the fifth district.

One of the eight candidates for the seat was a Mr. Curtis Herring, whose comical political base emerged from the Concerned Citizen's Group. And his school boy smile and passionate cries won him 106 votes.

Now for the problem:

It seems Mr. Herring owns property and is a registered voter in the 5th district, but very definitely resided in the fourth district which would have put him in direct opposition with incumbent, Johnny Johnson. I am sure at the time Mr. Herring took all of this into consideration but felt he would be a shoo-in running in the 5th district. It was also called to my attention that several county officials including the district attorney and clerk were aware of this situation, but

Continued next page

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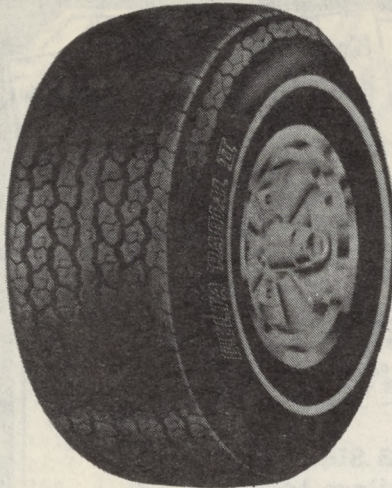
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FORUM Continued

chose not to take it to task. Surely, if there is not a legal requirement, there is a moral obligation to the people to inform them that there is a "Carpetbagger" in their midst. I wonder what would have been said if this man was running against one of the officials already in office. To quote one of the candidates as he writes in his column, "think about it," what if the 106 votes that Mr. Herring received were rightly given to the other seven candidates? What would the outcome of the election have been? And last but not least what effect will it have on county government for the next four years?

Another Concerned Citizen,
David Breetle
Independence, CA

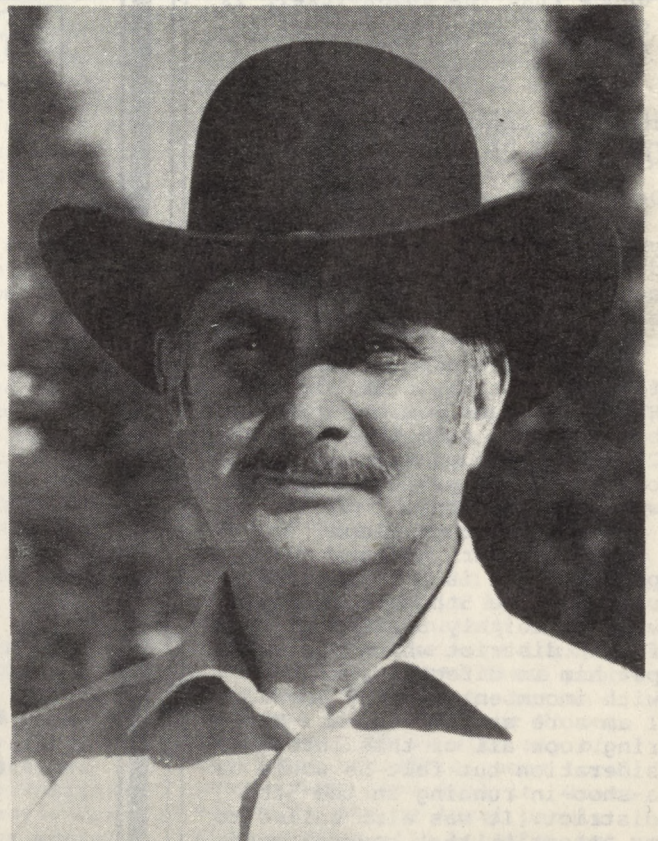
(Editor's note: Reader Breetle's concern was shared, or at least very much discussed, by others, including Inyo officials. But the fine line of determining Candidate Herring's actual living address, whether "downtown" or in the Alabama Hills, was difficult if not impossible to find. His candidacy was considered technically "legal.")

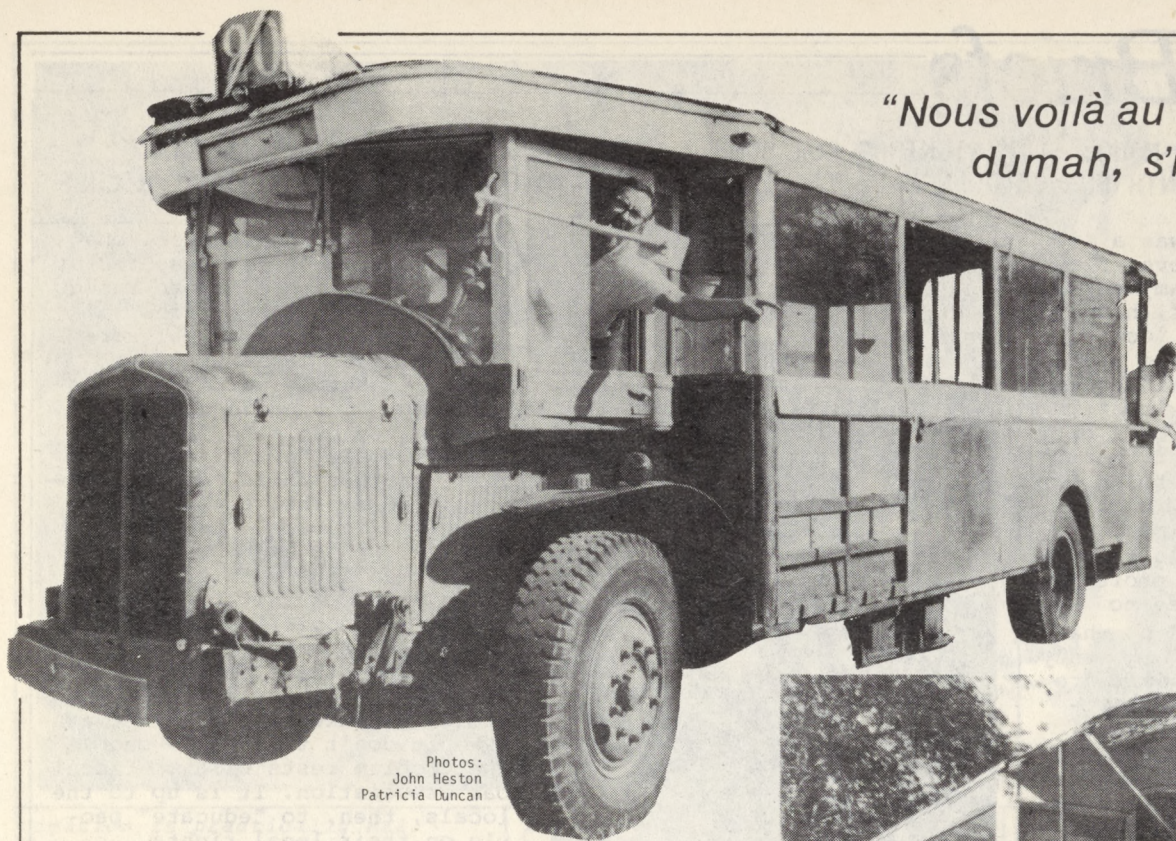
MY SINCERE THANKS

I very much appreciate the confidence shown in me by the voters of Mono County's 3rd District. Although I will not assume office for several months I am already hard at work acquainting myself with current problems of the county government. The people of my district may be assured that I'll do all in my power to preserve the ideas and things they want and to change those they don't. I'll do all I can to live up to the confidence that the people have shown in me.

PAUL F. JOHNSON

Supervisor-elect, District 3, County of Mono





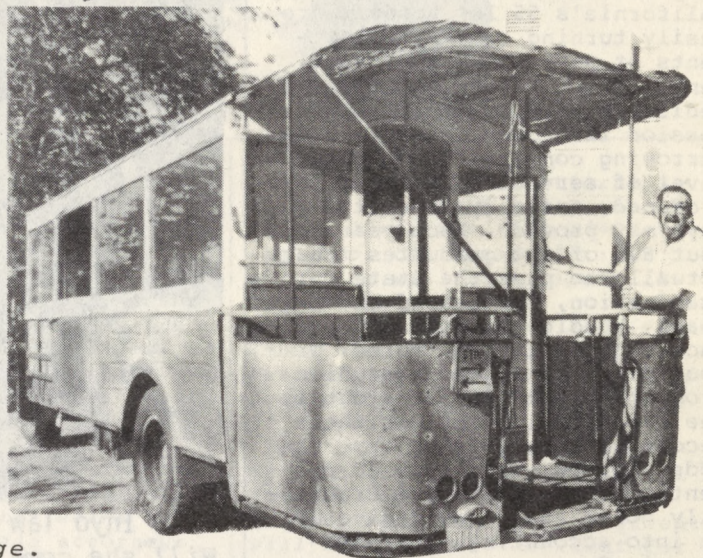
Photos:
John Heston
Patricia Duncan

"Nous voilà au Cafe Winne-
dumah, s'il vous plaît."

"Dans
l'autobus?"

"Oui."

"Garçon,
vérifiez les
pneus, s'il
vous plaît."



"Attention au marchepied, y'all."

It's a 1910 Renault bus from Paris. It's another of Plummer's Playthings. God knows how it got to the US. George Plummer, who is always dreaming up something new for his revitalized Winnedumah Country Inn, found it in Canoga Park of all places. It had languished on Universal's back lot for years; now it will be on the Winnedumah's back lot, part of a "sidewalk cafe" scene set on a cobblestone "street," n'est ce pas? Diners will be served aboard the bus if they choose. "Garçon, vérifiez les pneus, s'il vous plaît." For translation, call George.

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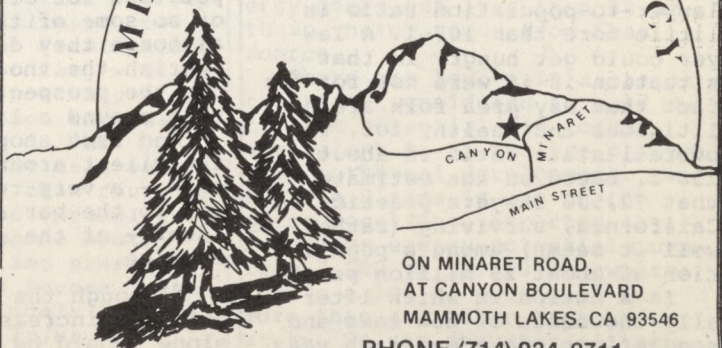
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News Briefs

LAWYERING IN INYO-MONO: SLIM PICKINGS FOR SOME / HARD TIMES AHEAD FOR JUNE MOUNTAIN? / IT WAS A ROUGH MONTH FOR CA JOHN K. / TAPPING THE INYO-MONO LANDS FOR GEOTHERMAL RICHES

For Inyo County it was a rare, and unexpected, even flattering occasion: William Wenke, the state bar president, had elected to address the local association at a luncheon meeting at Independence's Winnemah Country Inn. He called law "the most important profession," but then immediately implied that in an over-lawyered state it may have become indeed too important; that perhaps too many young people were trying each year to crash into the profession. They are attracted no doubt by its status and by what they believe to be its big money. California's 55 law schools are busily turning out 21,500 students at any given time, said Wenke. Which forces the more dedicated members of the profession into some serious, brow-furrowing concern: The quality level of service that these mass-produced, assembly-line attorneys may provide. Each year, about 50% of the graduates manage actually to pass the state bar examination, the second and more deadly hurdle the aspirant must face even after two, three, or four years of rigorous studies from which some 20% drop out in the first few months. On their second bar examination try, the odds improve - to about 90 percent. On the third try? Practically none; they should give up, go into accounting - or newspapering?

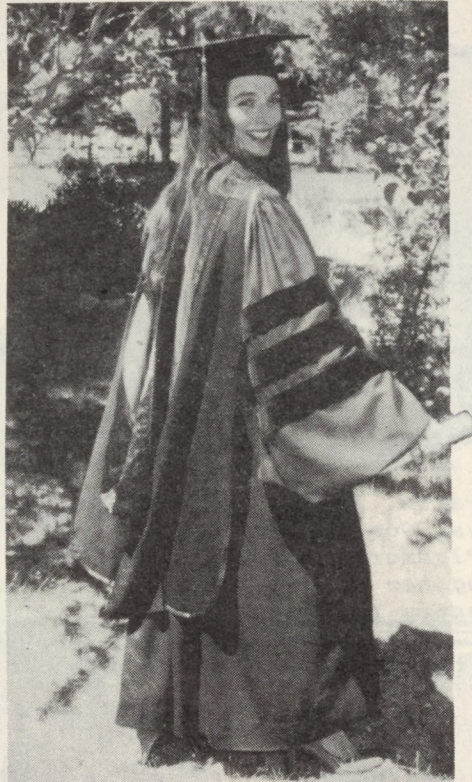
IS IT TRUE, as some area attorneys believe, that the Eastern Sierra is over-lawyered? Probably not, if the statewide figures provided by the new president of the California State Bar Association are to be believed.

In some areas of the state (such as San Francisco), the lawyer-to-population ratio is little more than 107-1. A lawyer could get hungry in that situation if it were not for the fact that Bay Area folk are a litigious and wealthy lot. The overall state ratio is about 250-1, based on the estimate that 72,500 lawyers practice in California, surviving (rather well it seems) among a population of about 25 million people.

In a nation in which literally thousands of new laws and regulations are added each year to the books of rules governing our lives, lawyering is Big Business. A recent ABC television documentary reports that few if any Americans will live

out their lives without the need - usually a desperate one - of a lawyer.

Contrary to the national trend in which almost everybody wants to sue somebody for some-



1980 Inyo law graduate
Will she come home to find Inyo over-lawyered?

thing, the Inyo-Mono area appears to be a comparatively peaceful spot; at least, most of the lawyers hereabouts think so, and they tend to discourage other lawyers from moving into a territory in which they themselves find slim pickings. Competition for clients is high, or so some of them claim, and although they do not say so (perish the thought), it might pay the prospective client to shop around a little.

And such shopping will bring the client around to the concern - a very real one, according to the bar association president - of the quality of legal service.

Although the numbers of lawyers are increasing, that fact alone should be no particular cause of concern, except to practicing lawyers fearing ever-increasing competition. The self-assured Wenke, secure in a profitable practice, styles himself

as a "big divorce" lawyer, one handling the marital disputes of some of California's more famous and affluent personalities.

Wenke's figures on Californians' use of legal services contrast sharply with those provided in ABC's national television survey. He said "one third" of the people "never" use lawyers; another third "do use" lawyers; and another third "seldom" seek legal advice. "two-thirds are really not using the legal profession," he concluded, and he pointed out that there are "a lot of people" who don't know how a lawyer can help them.

And then there's that problem of the present-day lawyer's "image." Wenke said flatly that "People don't trust us," and the problem rests with the local bar association. It is up to the locals, then, to "educate" people on their legal rights. He assured his listeners that even in rural communities such as Inyo and Mono that legal service is in fact available to all classes and economic levels - "lower, middle and upper." That could be argued in Inyo-Mono.

"Quality" of law in the boon-docks may be another thing, though, due to the more complete training the neophyte lawyer receives in the big cities: New lawyers entering high-powered firms do not have the same problems. "They have data processing, office workers to handle the business details. They deal with wealthy clients." In such firms, says Wenke, the new attorneys get training - more like medical interns - before they actually begin practice. Attorneys starting out "on their own" immediately after passing the bar get no such training, he said. The state bar association, meanwhile, is taking a hard look at what many of its members believe may be a solution: At least a year's internship after passing the bar exam, and a thorough examination of law teaching and testing.

If Wenke's figures are accurate, the Eastern Sierra's lawyers are not overcrowded, not at least in ratio to population, but they may have another problem: The local economies. They cannot draw from an especially "rich" clientele. Inyo-Mono has its millionaires, but not in the same numbers as, say, Beverly Hills. Also "commercial," or big business, lit-



Bar Association President Wenke talks to the Inyo legal community

Too many lawyers, and of what quality?

Photo: John Heston

igation is practically nil.

In Inyo County, with its population of around 18,000, there are about 24 lawyers actually offering legal services, some on a limited basis. That means there is one lawyer for about every 750 people. Not "practicing," in the public sense, are two judges, a district attorney and (recently) a county counsel and a couple of deputy DA's.

It's harder to pin down tight figures for Mono County; the population fluctuates too much. Many residents live there only part-time. One Mammoth lawyer thinks that about one-third to one-half of "the real estate practice" in Mono involves people living out of the county. "Involvement in a real estate legal matter must be in the county where the real estate is, not where the people live." And "the property" of course is in Mammoth. The money is there, too, although he didn't say that.

Mono County's Yellow Pages list 14 attorneys, but that figure is misleading. At least two of them actually practice in Los Angeles, and many of the others have, at best, a limited practice. It is estimated that only about six or seven of Mammoth's lawyers actually practice on a full-time-active basis. It is known that at least a few others list their names as attorneys (although they work in private business) in order to enjoy tax benefits from homes or condos they own. Calls to their listed numbers seldom result in so much as an answer, much less legal serv-

ice. The estimated lawyer-to-population ratio then becomes something like 2000-1. Not bad for the working lawyers, or so it would seem. But the figures, again, may be misleading; many Mono residents deal with Bishop lawyers, and then there is the fact that Nevada lawyers get some of the Inyo-Mono trade, which this month brought up yet another issue, and maybe some future litigation:

The local attorneys are concerned - and now actively opposing - a system that works one way: Although Nevada attorneys may practice in California, where there is no residency requirement for taking the bar examination, there definitely and frustratingly is such a residency requirement in Nevada. It effectively blocks California lawyers from practicing in that state. In recent weeks the locals set out to do something about it.

It came to light that a group of Inyo lawyers will apply to take the Nevada bar examination. They are aware that they will be turned down, since they are not "residents." When that happens, they plan to do what lawyers do: "Sue the hell out of them." No fewer than four Nevada lawyers list themselves in the Inyo-Mono phone book; there, the irritating presence of those names has become just too much for the locals to further bear. Adding injury to insult is another fact: One of the Nevada firms has one of Inyo's and Mono's "plum" accounts, handling the two county governments' defense on insur-

ance claims.

So far, two Inyo attorneys, Charles Karpinski and Peter Tracy, have immediate plans to apply for the Nevada Bar. In all, five will participate in the action.

What did State Bar President Wenke have to say about the Nevada situation? "The Nevada people don't want to negotiate. It's a matter of persistency... the state bar governing board is considering lending counsel for the fight."

Some Eastern Sierra residents will rest easier: At least for now, the lawyers are litigating among themselves, not us.

UNTAPPED ENERGY: INYO AND MONO MAY HAVE A LOT OF IT

ABOUT 70% of known geothermal resources are said to lie beneath California's surface land. But in spite of that underground energy treasure, the state's energy users get less than 2% of their energy needs from that source.

There are four main areas in the state considered to hold the highest potential (in total-equivalent to 15 nuclear plants) for geothermal development. The Eastern Sierra is one of the prime locations. Reported estimates for energy potential range from 7,000 to 10,000 megawatts: That's a lot of potential and more than any other area in the state. So say a number of technical and geological reports.

The apparent snail's pace in geothermal development stems from a number of hangups, accord-

Continued next page

ing to the prestigious government analysis, the *California Journal*. Government red tape, high costs of exploring, public opposition, environmental regulations, and federal leasing policies:

A *Journal* article explains that geothermal potential in California lies in federal ownership, and there is an acreage limitation.

Although the feds purport to be doing "all possible" to alleviate the country's energy crisis, it is believed that large oil interests tend to discourage meaningful geothermal development.

In the face of all that, Inyo and Mono counties have attempted, more or less, to initiate the process toward further exploration. Recently, Forest Service Ranger Dick Adams, of Mammoth, talked to the Inyo supervisors about a proposed geothermal project outside Mammoth. He said, "We're not sure about the extent of the resource but preliminary drilling will tell that." Adams said that over the next seven months the Bureau of Land Management will select one company as a "main applicant" for the project lease although other companies may be involved.

The area to be developed is east of Highway 203 and north of Hot Creek.

Maps have been put together taking into consideration timber, water shed, fish and wildlife, sensitive plants, visual resources, recreation, range, and social and economic impact. In view of that there is little wonder it takes geothermal energy a long time to be made practical.

Adams said that this project "could provide" more energy for Inyo County. Funds from leasing the property are supposed to be distributed to areas impacted by any such project.

In far Southern Inyo the Coso Geothermal Project has long been on the drawing board, but still there appears to be far more steam under the Coso range than among geothermal proponents.

Both the Navy and the Bureau of Land Management are working on separate projects in the area. They have completed, also separately, environmental impact reports, and Inyo County has made comment. According to Inyo Planner Jerry Budlong, the two EIR's contradict each other although they address essentially the same things. BLM says the life of a geothermal plant there will be 50 years...the Navy says 1,000 years. So much for bureaucratic statistics.

Why aren't the two federal agencies working together instead of separately? Nobody has that answer. As Budlong said, the two

agencies would save the taxpayer a lot of money if they worked together. As it is, they duplicate effort. As one pointed out, there are jealousies between government agencies, not surprising to the weary taxpayer.

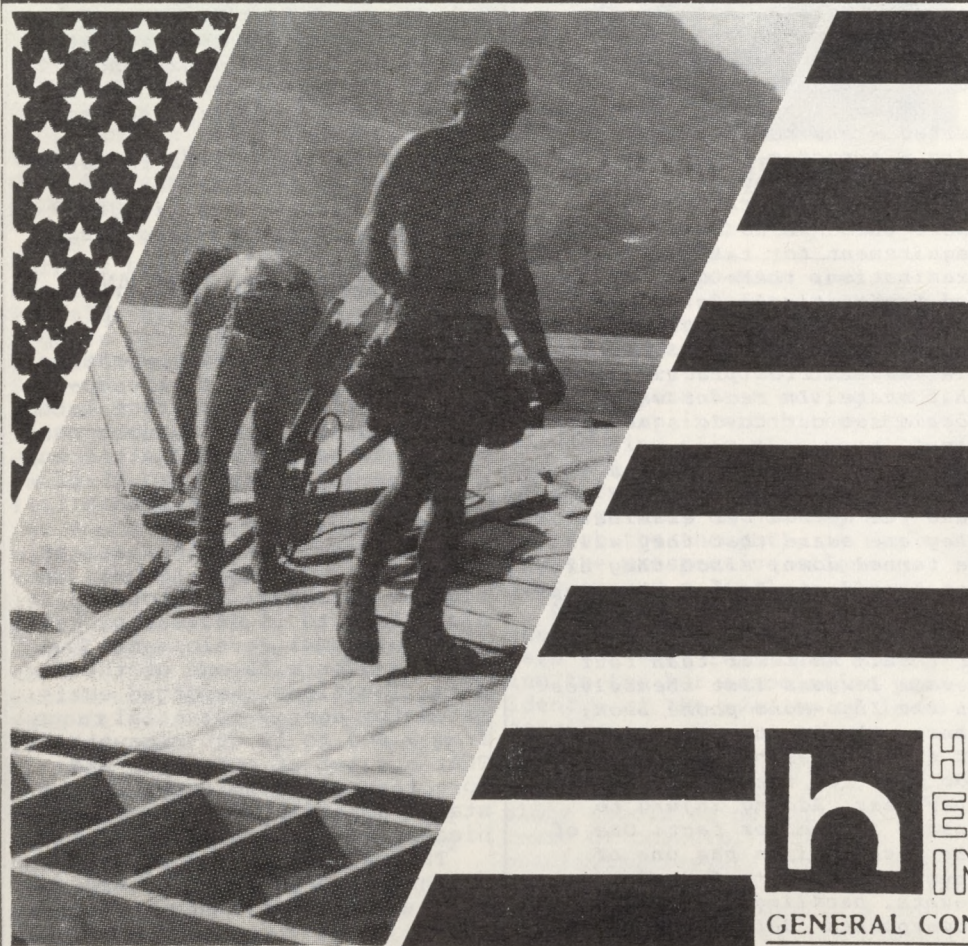
On the other hand, environmental concerns must be carefully examined when starting a geothermal project. For instance, the sulfur emitted from a geothermal well can be a real problem raising more than a bureaucratic stink.

At last report, BLM's energy-watchers planned to let a lease on 24,000 acres of national forest, sometime around mid-July. After that, according to Randy Witters of the Mammoth Forest Service Station, "two or three wells" will be drilled. In the meantime, a civil engineer was to join the Mammoth office; he will take charge of geothermal matters. He is Al Liedecker who will first take a trip to the geyser area which is on the Pacific Gas & Electric site.

How long before the Eastern Sierra benefits? As long as it takes two federal agencies to agree, and then get on with it.

GRAND JURY: A CRITICAL
LOOK AT THE CA'S POWER

FOR INYO COUNTY'S Adminis-



AMERICAN ENTERPRISE BUILT IT ALL

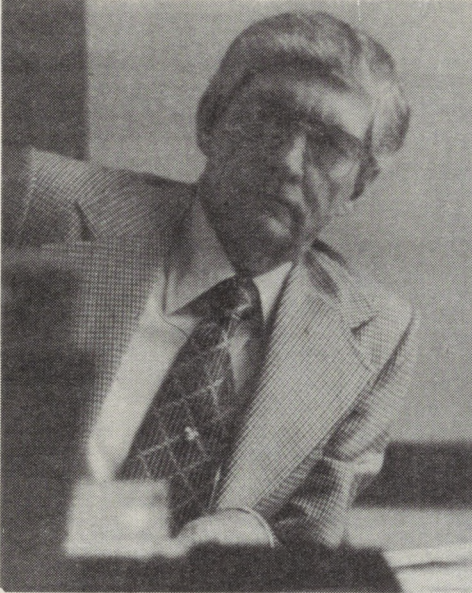
Free people, working hard, have accomplished a 204-year miracle. They built it all. But some people seem to have lost faith in the miracle, in a system that works! Let's restore that faith; Let's celebrate by going back to work. Don't doubt it a minute: Working together, we can accomplish more miracles.

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trator John K. Smith, June was not a month of shining triumph. First off, groups of angry citizens soundly defeated his - and



County Administrator Smith
An uncool angry reply

Supervisor Johnny Johnson's - hopes of pushing through another "agreement" with the Department of Water and Power. Then along came a nagging new grand jury report citing Smith's conflict of interest position in his

dealings with DWP. Said the jury: "The elective process is being by-passed by placing too much authority in the hands of the county administrator, an appointed official. It is interesting to note," the jury's report went on, "that whenever a policy situation arises, the supervisors seem to depend on knowledge possessed by the county administrator rather than their own. Too frequently, matters of judgment are left up to him...While we commend the capability of the administrator, we condemn the procedure." Then the jury scored a point raised earlier during "hearings" on the proposed DWP agreement: "No county official, whether elected or appointed, who has business dealings with the Department of Water and Power...should be involved in negotiations with that body..."

And what "dealings" has Smith with DWP? They are considerable: The lease, for instance, of no less than some 5000 acres of DWP grazing land. In the past, DWP has never felt restrained in using its lease arrangements to pressure anyone even remotely involved - or outspoken - in the water controversy. Although Smith said he will answer the jury's report "later," he inadvertently

Continued page 34

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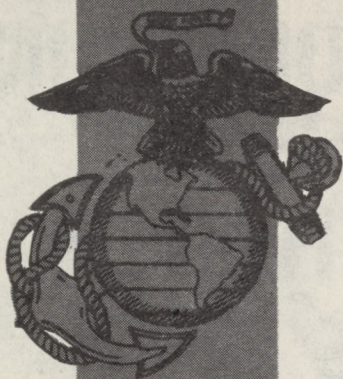
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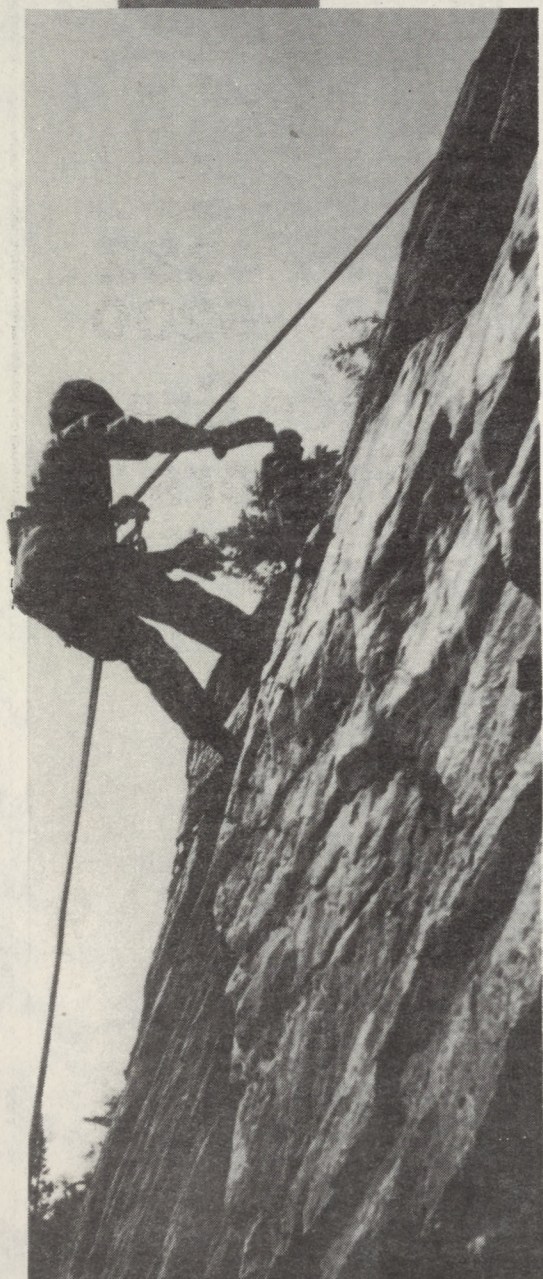
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OUR NEIGHBORS, THE MARINES

The Marines' contribution to the Eastern Sierra, and to the nation, is considerable, but for years "the military" has been shunned and derided. Now, however, American attitudes are changing; the very real threat of foreign hostility causes us to take a second look.

By JOHN HESTON



USMC Photos

Patriotism may be back "in." Flags are flying beyond the Fourth of July.

In their thoughts and feelings about their armed forces over the past two decades a great number of Americans went beyond mere neglect and lack of concern, to attitudes of sheer aversion and positive disdain. During the Vietnam war, returning servicemen were more often spat upon than cheered.

All that may be passing. Kidnappings in Iran, increasing bellicosity from the Russians, a seeming absence of real support from allies - all, it now appears, have contributed to a resurgence of support and respect for the military.

High time, think the Marines who for several years have lived and worked as shunned neighbors in the Eastern Sierra.

And when, on August 2, the Marines throw open their mountain training facility in Mono's Pickel Meadows for an "open house" celebration it is very likely to be with a renewed pride and confidence. They may even dare hope to discover a patriotic twinkle here and there in the eyes of the crowds they hope to attract. It is almost certain the Mono Marines will provide a good show, one with a lot of snap and polish, one sharply demonstrating their old self-assured expertise and *esprit*.

Mono County's Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC), set just four miles off Highway 395 on the Sonora Pass road, was established back when most Americans harbored strong positive feelings about their Marines. In 1951 America was deeply embroiled in another no-win "police action," this one in cold, mountainous Korea. The Marine Corps needed then - and certainly needs now - a training center to teach its men how to survive and win battles hiking and climbing rugged terrain that was very often frozen over with numbing ice and snow. The North Koreans and the Chinese understood the situation and, at least at first, we didn't. After all, only six years before, the Marines had been sweating in the tropics suffering malaria, not frostbite.

In the 50's all was well with the Marine image; when allowed to they were certainly winning, and everybody's gung-ho attitudes were confidently intact with flags flying.

Then came Vietnam and what, in retrospection, appeared to be breakdowns of leadership in three wishy-washy administrations. Morale went down as public frustration went up; and Americans - if you can call them that - were burning the flag, moving quickly from pink to red, and parading poorly-concealed cowardice under

an unconvincing cloak of pious protest.

Unbelievably, the astonished and injured Marines had somehow become the enemy. And for nearly 10 years, evoking mixed emotions, they've done their thing in a kind of public-image limbo.

But now, with most of the Hippies living in middle-America split-levels and dutifully reporting 9-5 at corporate offices, is that unjustly tarnished image really changing?

Yes, it is, and no one is more happily aware of it than the Marines themselves.

They'd like the opportunity, once again, to strut their stuff and show off their considerable accomplishments - most of these attained in spite of negligent support, low budgets and lagging public interest. A lot of these may come clear on August 2.

One of them who has been through it all, hero to heretic to hero, is lantern-jawed Lieutenant Colonel John Guy of the Mono MCMWTC. When the reporters arrived unannounced at his base one June afternoon, he showed at first a wary reticence. In some previous public relations efforts he had been sorely burned by a press that in recent years has not dealt kindly with the men and women of the country's first line of defense - (and, when need arises, offense.) His caution was shared by a tough-looking Major, Matt Heck, a New Yorker transplanted as a volunteer to Mono's mountains. They stood outside their headquarters, eyes moving over the camp, as if they, as highly-mobile troops, could break and take cover if necessary on an instant's hostile questioning. At first it was plainly difficult for them to imagine a presence of reporters and photographers not bent on some leftish harrangue. Finally, things warmed up.

Guy, the camp's commanding officer, is 47, but looks somewhat older. A tough life maybe; certainly the lines had come from no idle life of dissipation - his erect posture and bearing attested to that. He has served more than 27 years in the Corps: in Japan, the U.S., and in three tours of 'Nam. The reporters, having seen evidence all around them that public attitudes might be changing, went right to the point:

Did the colonel detect the change?

"Yes," due primarily to events in Iran. "In a way," said Guy, "the Iranians did us a favor. No one thought this could happen." He also added that he thinks "Americans are more enlightened on the Russian threat." "It has been covered on television and in the newspapers."

Well, now that the Russians - and other countries - have shown their true colors, is this country prepared to meet the challenge?

"No. There is not enough money put into it (military preparedness)." The colonel's view is one increasingly shared by Americans and their leaders, who apparently were too-long fooled by ideas of "SALT" and the veneer of *detente*.

And what does the colonel think about the new draft proposal? (Already, the soft-living teenagers are ready to scream in the streets again).

"If you are part of a democratic society, it's the same as with the Greeks. You must do something for that society to earn your part in it...to serve in some way." The colonel said in so many words that the draft is a step - more accurately a march - in the right direction. "There has to be something in reserve. You can't form an army in six weeks." He also said, with a weary disappointment, that he'd heard that some prospective soldiers are talking about heading for Canada or Mexico. But this time Canada and Mexico don't want them; apparently, worthless citizens in one country are equally useless to another, although Guy did not say that.

"In the 60's and 70's it was not fashionable to be in the military. Some people simply believed soldiers were dumb, which is just not true...And that they could not make it anywhere else, also not true. At the mountain training warfare center we work hard to prepare Marines. The environmental aspects here are demanding, physically and psychologically. The men are trained in case they have to serve in the mountains of the Mid-east or Far East. The aggressiveness they must exhibit, and the demanding pressures of military training, prepare the men to handle five or six crises at once...And it is no longer 'un-American' to be in the military."

Servicemen dumb? Let's see: Guy himself is a graduate of a long list of top-rated military schools: British Jungle Warfare School in Malaya; The Arctic School, Ft. Greely, Alaska; Norwegian Sixth Army Division School; Third British Royal Marine Commando Brigade in Norway; Special Forces School, Ft. Bragg; and various Marine Corps schools. As a career man he obviously likes it. Can servicemen "make it" outside the military establishments? Scores of companies yearly seek out hundreds of retired officers to serve in top corporate positions. "It's a lot of fun. We make things work regardless of bureaucratic red tape."

Continued next page



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The colonel wanted to communicate - and indeed he did so very well - that American tax dollars are in fact going for something besides bureaucrats and Cuban refugees. Money at the local facility is managed "prudently." Guy expects to remain as CO there until sometime next summer, then he's off again for foreign duty... He's a man who likes the front-line.

Thankfully, in these times of international stress, there are gratifyingly large numbers of others like him:

Major Matt Heck stood respectfully by, returning the salutes of passing Marines as the colonel talked. Except for a few off-the-record comments about Vietnam, mostly and generally reflecting the view that if you're in a fight, win it, the major let Guy do the talking. But Heck did fill in some interesting information gaps about just what the Marines are doing up



Marines training in Mono's harsh winter
Dollars for something besides bureaucrats

there in Mono County.

About all that Inyo-Mono people know of the Pickel Meadows operation is that a lot of olive-drab green buses and mobile equipment regularly go through along Highway 395. Rarely do the people of the two counties come in contact with the loads of young men riding to and from the base. (There was an exception recently as one of the buses broke down, and *News-Letter* Photographer Peter Pearson, himself a former Marine, chanced on to the very temporary "encampment" at Bishop's city park and took the pictures shown on another page.)

Heck said that soon 650 men will be heading back to Camp Pendleton, with a new unit coming up the highway in mid-July. Between 800 and 1000 men will spend about a month in training and tactical exercises. Heck is a 12-year Marine and from him and the other leaders the volun-

teers in Mono learn in summer rock climbing and rappelling, and in the winter, cold weather survival and tactics. Most of these are "first-timers."

Why don't the area people see more of the Marines? They, after all, form an Eastern Sierra community larger than, say Olancha, or Independence, Laws, Walker-Coleville, etc. Heck explained that on days off, the Marines range off base in only a limited "liberty" area; roughly from Bridgeport to the recreation and casino area at Lake Topaz. Their presence - and their paychecks - are no small contribution to the economies of those communities.

Economic contribution? Marine paychecks are probably the least of it, and, as stated, limited to a given area of coverage. Unknown to many economy-watchers in both Mono and Inyo Counties, the Marine base pays out amounts in the hundreds of thousands of dollars for a long and varied list of goods and services. Take beer, for instance. Beer? Yes, Marines have been known to drink beer; and hundreds of Marines drink hundreds, perhaps thousands, of beers - all purchased through local distributors.

The Marines also buy quantities of food-stuffs; their guests and their Pendleton-based truck drivers stay at Inyo Motels. Contracts for automotive parts are let to local suppliers. A propane contract goes each year on a revolving basis to local dealers. There are also gasoline and repair services in thousands of dollars, for Marine vehicles. Marine families rent or lease houses in the Walker and Coleville communities. Television cable people are under contract to guarantee TV reception at the base. The Marines buy thousands of dollars' worth of construction materials from area suppliers. And

Continued next page

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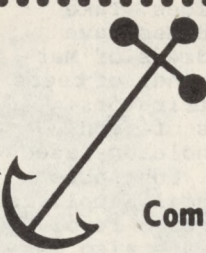
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so on down to pens and paper clips.

In past "open house" festivities that went largely unpublicized, the attendance was rarely over 200. This year, things are expected to be different as the two counties turn out to, well, meet the neighbors. For their efforts visitors will be treated to a Marine display of mountain climbing and tactics, films and, of course, a no-host cocktail party (with doubtless no small amount of Marine beer) - and a chance for a hard look at what the long-disdained military may be doing. More importantly, the visitors may feel a little better, a little safer in their world situation. And, yes, there may even be a patriotic twinkle in an eye here and there.

"We'd sure like to see you," says Major Heck, "and we think you'll like to see us."

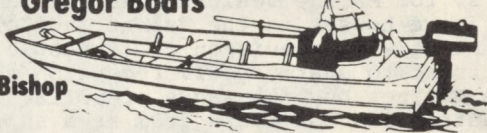
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The Marines' beachhead at Bishop City Park

A broken-down bus sends a Marine troop on a search for shade, and a reporter-photographer, himself a former Marine, moves in for a chat and some pictures.

Text and Photos by
Peter Pearson



For kids playing in the park Marines provided a novel diversion. Kids had a lot of questions.



Frisbees appear and a game starts

On a balmy June afternoon, about 40 U.S. Marines, complete with M-16 rifles, camouflaged jungle uniforms, cases of food staples ("C" Rations) and other military paraphernalia, jumped off trucks and proceeded to secure beachhead - the Bishop City Park. No need for alarm. On route from the Bridgeport Mountain Warfare Training Center to Camp Pendleton, their bus broke down and it gave the Marines a couple of hours R & R. Lesser beachheads were secured at local food vendors, as evidenced by sodas and hamburgers on picnic tables.

But not all had been a picnic for the last 30 days where

Continued page 40

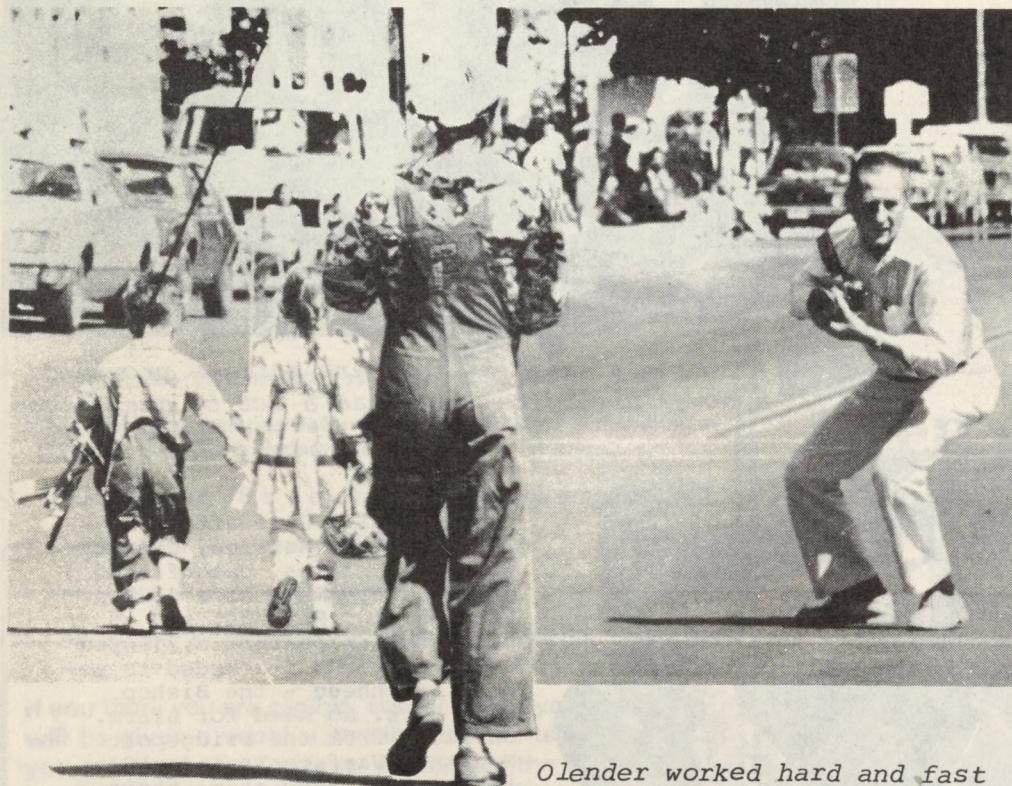
The Times

*covers
Independence
Day - fast*

Using a plane and some electronic gadgetry, a team of Los Angeles newsmen covers the July 4 celebration at Independence and has its story and pictures in Los Angeles in an hour and a half to meet an early deadline



Timesmen Ben Olender and Charles Hillinger arrive just before parade, and plan story.



Olender worked hard and fast as the short parade went by. Immediately after parade, he brought film to the news service dark room, four blocks away, for fast processing.

"It's a natural," said the Los Angeles Times' long-time staffer Chuck Hillinger. "Where else to go for a July Fourth story but to a town named Independence?" Where else indeed? As Hillinger talked to townspeople and planned his "lead," Olender began shooting. They even found time to shop the booths set up on the courthouse lawn, spending \$54 "for the wife," as the writer explained.

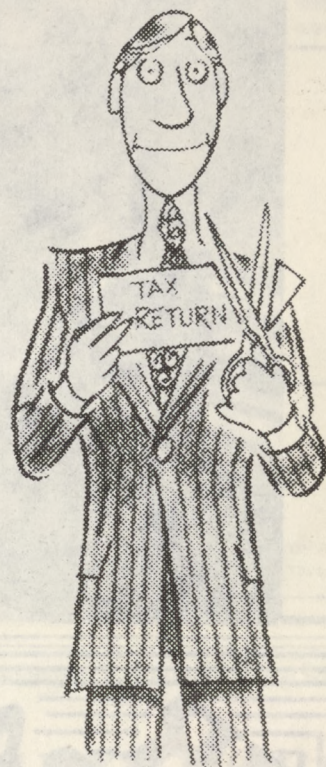


Plugging a suitcase-size telephoto machine into a telephone speaker in the newsroom, Olender transmits finished photo prints - four of them at eight minutes each. Hillinger had written story and on another line phoned it in. Total coverage time at Independence: about 90 minutes. Story appeared in next morning's TIMES and was sold out on news stands in an hour.

Photos:
Benett Kessler
John Heston

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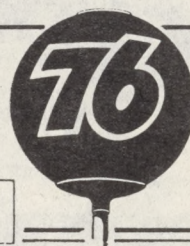
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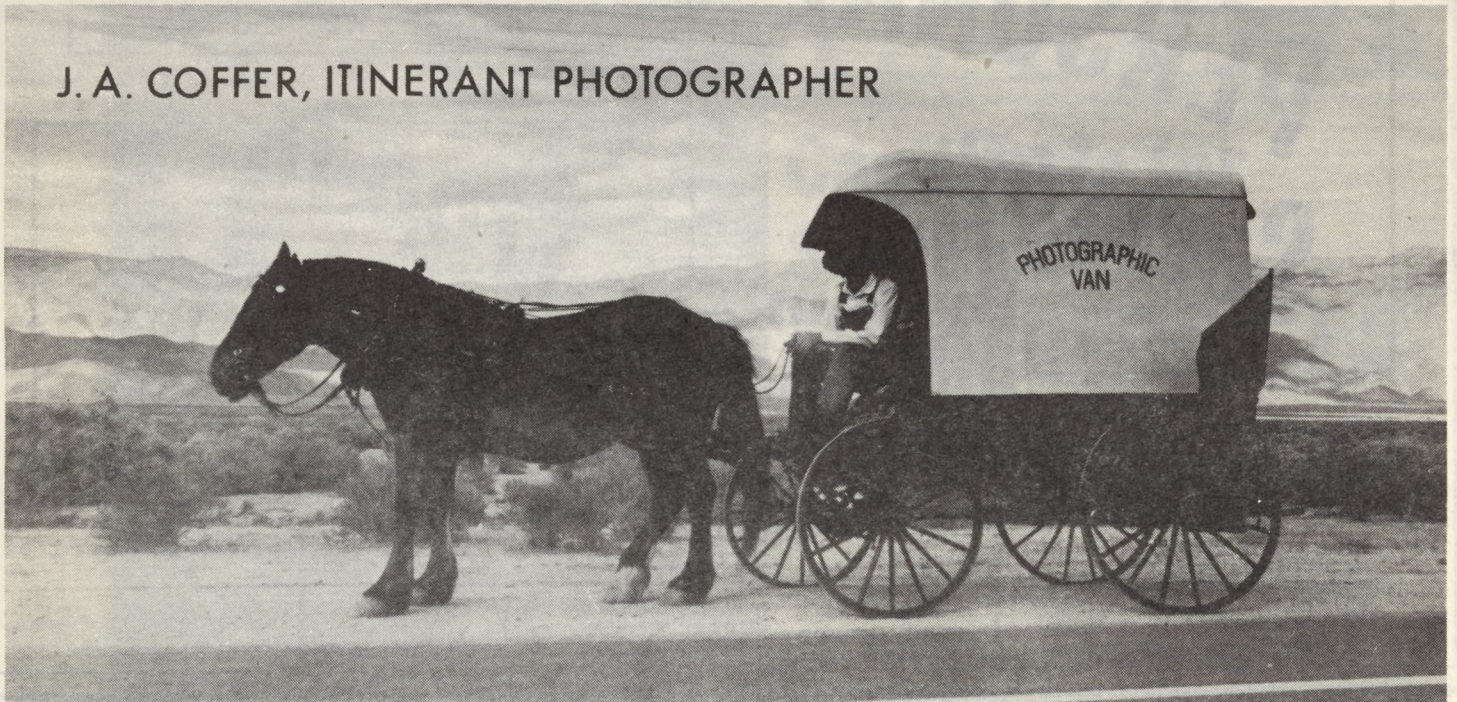
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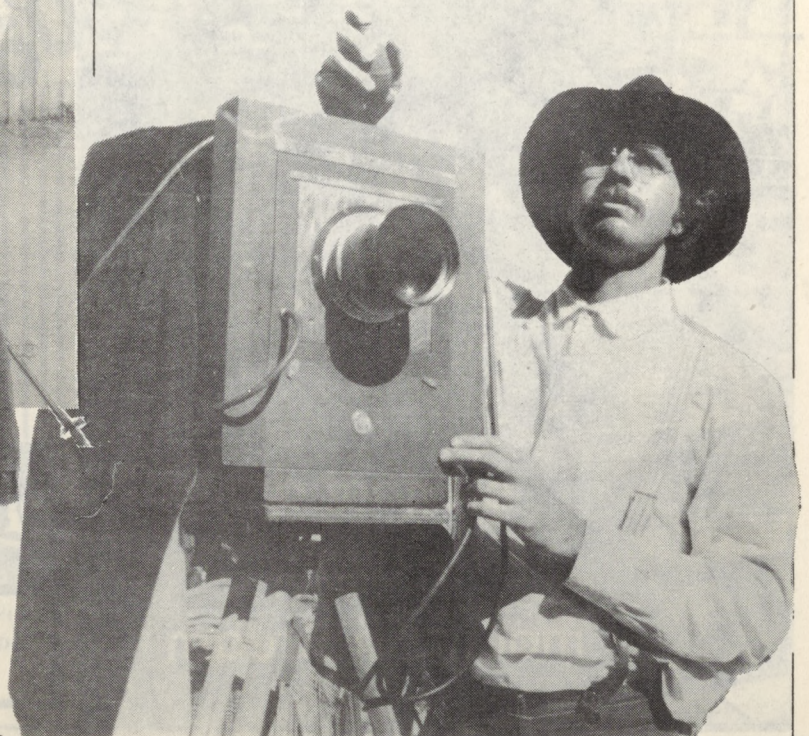


Photos: John Peston



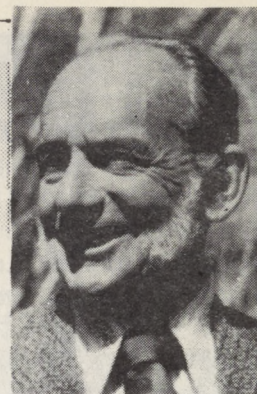
His buggy encloses a darkroom, his sleeping quarters, kitchen and business office. In it he has traveled from Pennsylvania to Florida to the West Coast.

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View from the Right

"Right" and "Left" sometimes get lost in the world of political thinking, but a rose by any name would smell as - well, political.



Paul
Payne

Now that the good citizens of Inyo County's 5th Supervisorial District have expressed their choices from which to pick a supervisor in the November election, I wish to send a hearty "THANK YOU" to those who supported this writer's candidacy. As an election-eve observer commented after the votes were tallied, "We're both too conservative to be elected garbage collector". Be that as it may, it was satisfying to learn of the large number of Inyoites who are greatly concerned by the intrusion of all levels of government into the private lives and affairs of its citizens.

The words "conservative" and "liberal" have been bantered around by politicians, the media and academicians until the general public has lost comprehension of their true meaning. The same holds true with the words "right or rightist" and "left or leftist".

Webster gives the definition of "conservative - conservatism" as "a political philosophy based on tradition and social stability, stressing established institutions and preferring gradual development to abrupt change".

Let's look and see what Webster says about the liberal. "Liberal - liberalism": a theory in economics emphasizing individual freedom from restraint and usually based on free competition, the self-regulating market, and the gold standard: a political philosophy based on belief in progress, the essential goodness of man, and the autonomy of the individual..".

A re-reading of the foregoing definitions just might be well worth the time and effort. Is there a great deal of difference in the philosophies? Does one not compliment the other? One can be both "conservative" and "liberal". What is better than to move cautiously in preservation of our liberties? Neither conservatives nor liberals control our govern-

ments today.

Webster says of the "right - rightist": Individuals sometimes professing opposition to change in the established order and favoring traditional attitudes and practices and sometimes advocating the forced establishment of an authoritarian political order".

Now for the "left - leftist": Mr. Webster: "Those professing views usually characterized by desire to reform or overthrow the established order especially in politics and usually advocating change in the name of greater freedom or well being of the common man".

A good American "conservative - liberal" greatly resents the label of "rightist" being attached to him. He does not believe in the forced establishment of any political order; he is not opposed to change; he is a man of order in what he does and advocates; he believes in individual freedom and responsibility; he is an advocate of sound monetary policies.

There is no room for a true "right - rightist" in our American social or political society. We must have orderly change. To advocate the establishment of an authoritarian political system of any nature is to restrict the freedoms of the individual.

The vocal "left - leftist" that has invaded our governments at all levels is a most dangerous breed. He not only wishes to radically change things, both economic and political, but he lies when he states it is being done for the greater freedom and well being of the common man. Every change and program initiated by the "left - leftist" has restricted the common man's freedoms or tightened his bonds of slavery through higher taxes and an ever-increasing rate of inflation.

Those of the "left - leftist" breed are not only present in governments but also in the business community. When a business asks for or takes government funds to bail themselves out of trouble, are they not further taking away the liberties of the overburdened tax-

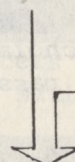
payer? In the name of the common good too! How can slavery be good?

Let's call these characters, "right - rightist" or "left - leftist", by their more descriptive name: "slave masters". To work and produce and then have the wages or fruits of production withheld by anyone, including governments, is slavery. Call it by any other name you wish; it is still slavery.

Think about it!

Paul

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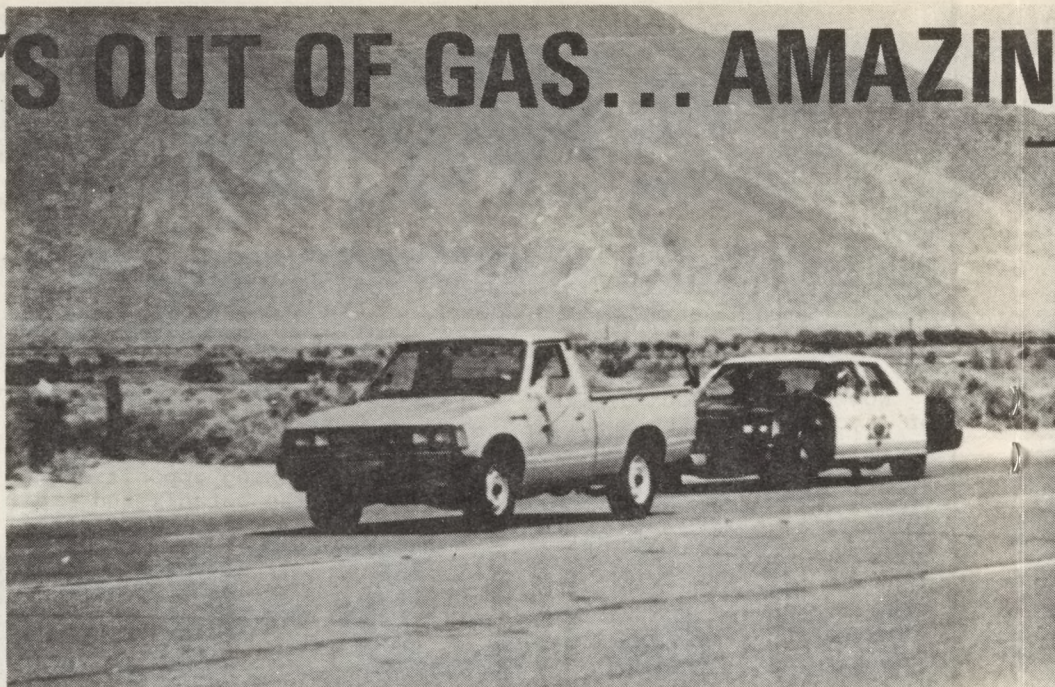
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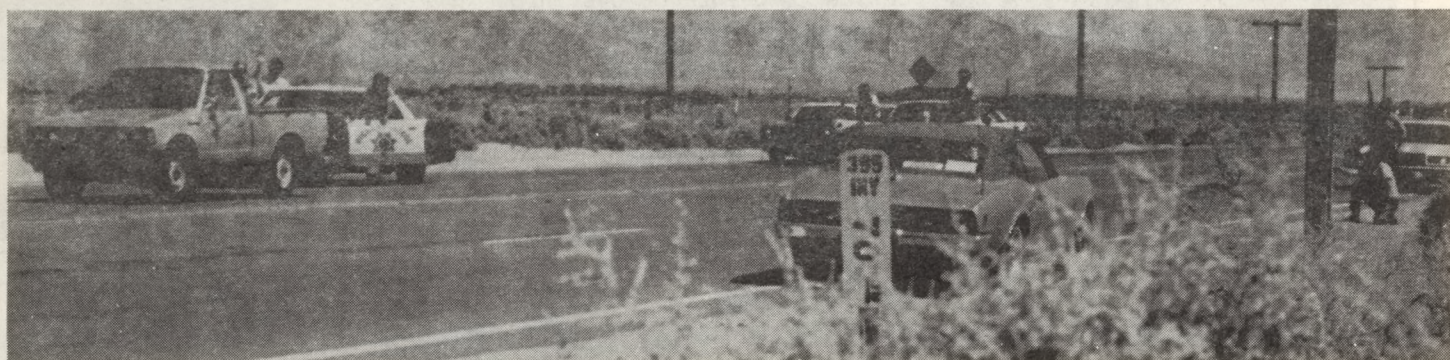


FINALLY, HE'S OUT OF GAS... AMAZIN

It was a prime example of police discipline, forbearance and patience: Wishing neither to start shooting nor to run the little truck off the road, the officers pursued in hot, weary relays for 164 miles, radioing ahead to clear traffic and people out of the way. The truck hurtled along at near 100 miles an hour until finally it ran out of gas. Waiting at the end of the chase was Bennett Kessler who shot this remarkable photo sequence...



2



The press car moves southward as two officers (far right) take position and aim their weapons at the suspect truck. Other officers draw their guns, emerge from patrol cars.

3



Inyo Deputy Mike Nicholas moves forward, takes aim with shotgun; Loudspeakers order surrender. Youth in passenger seat puts hands behind head, but driver won't comply.

4



If driver is armed, as was reported, Nicholas is in a dangerous situation, but if a gun appears at window he is ready to fire instantly. Other officers move in from left.

INGLY, HE SURVIVES



1 The pickup runs out of gas. Photographers have run from press car into brush at the side of the road. Highway Patrolmen and Inyo sheriff's deputies are cautiously coming out of their own cars; they have been informed that the two boys are armed. A loudspeaker warns press car driver Patricia Duncan to clear out; she is in their line of fire.



5 Driver refuses to respond, stares straight ahead, ignores officers' commands. Nicholas moves in, sees that driver is not armed after all. Driver stubbornly sits.



6 Highway Patrolman Doug Manning joins Nicholas who instantly removes shotgun as possible danger to driver. CHP Al George and Deputy Randy Nixon run in from right.

Cont.
next page



7 Other Highway Patrolmen close in from right and left. Manning reaches for door.

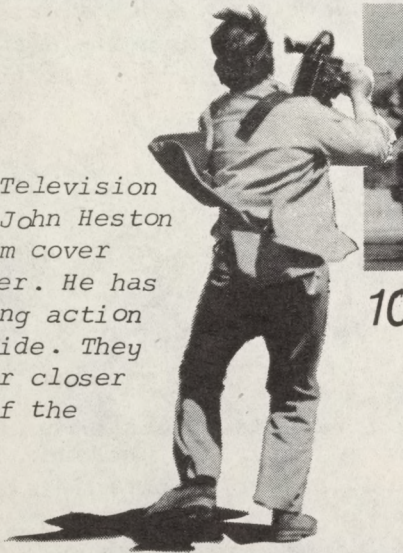
8 They get hands on recalcitrant driver who resists. At far right: CHP John Langenheim who has been in chase for miles.



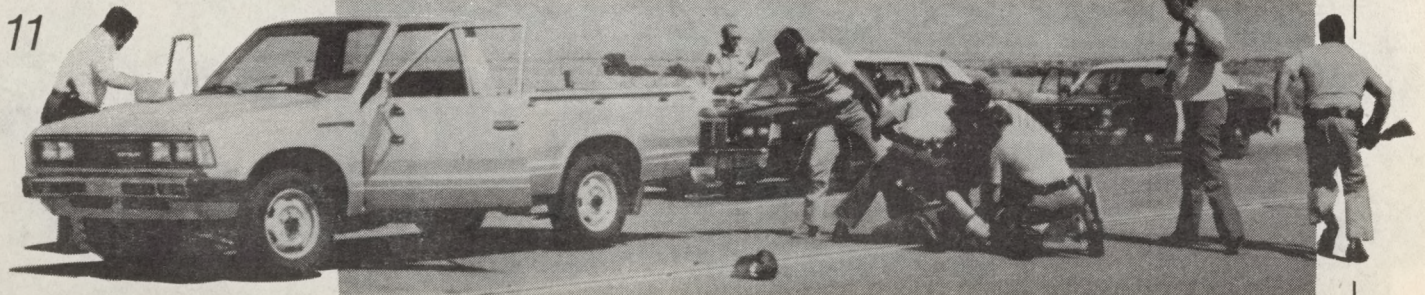
9 They attempt to gain a "choke hold" on driver. He struggles against their efforts. On other side, passenger is taken from car. He cooperates, lies down.

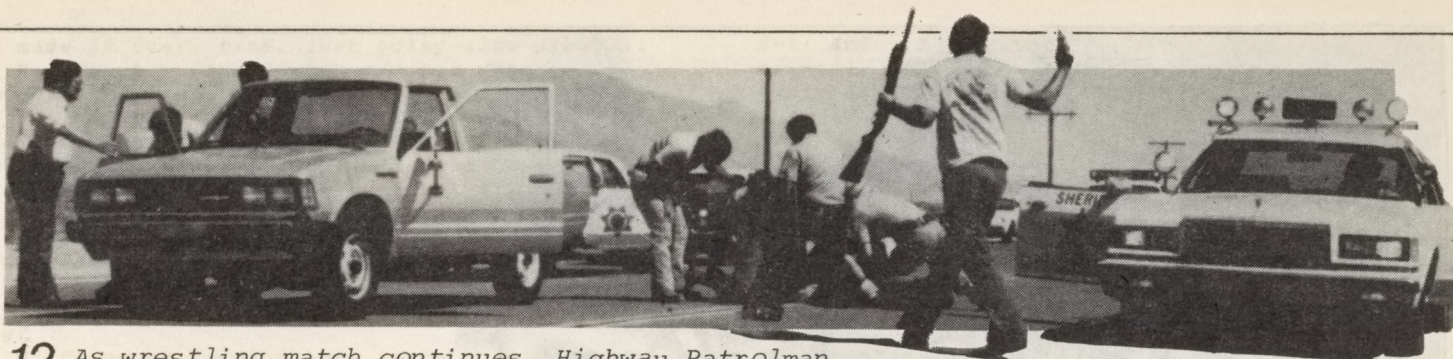


Channel 7 Television Cameraman John Heston breaks from cover with Kessler. He has been filming action from roadside. They move in for closer pictures of the struggle.



10 It's going to be a battle; the driver will not give up. At left, Highway Patrolman Ben Anderson and others have passenger on ground and under control. Driver kicks and struggles, and Nicholas loses hat (foreground.) At no time did reporters see officers strike or kick suspect.

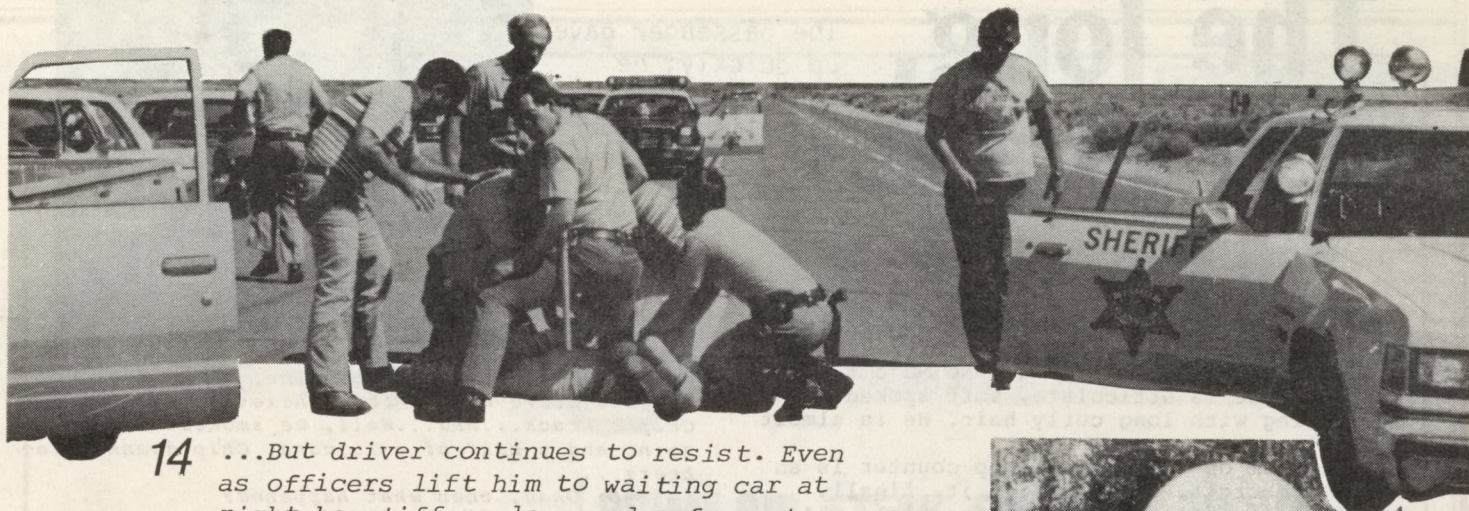




12 As wrestling match continues, Highway Patrolman George calls up car to take driver to jail.

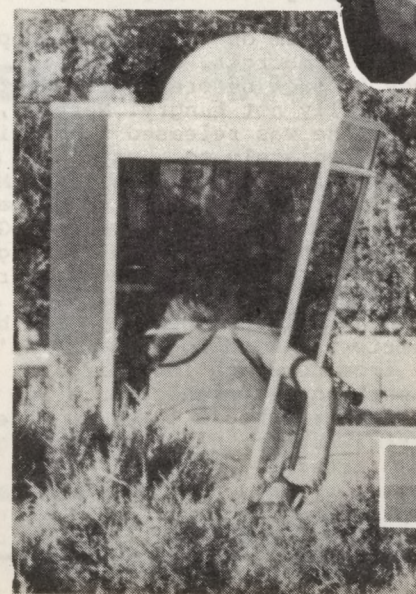
13

Officers handcuff passenger for transport to jail.



14 ...But driver continues to resist. Even as officers lift him to waiting car at right he stiffens legs and refuses to be placed in back seat. At this point the picture sequence ends: Photographer Kessler is out of film and her reserve supply has been left in press car which by now is far up the road from action.

Taken to jail and questioned, young passenger, Byron Nelson, is released. He is still frightened and goes immediately to phone booth to call his home. Later, he talks to reporters. For that story, turn the page.





*"No more dope
for me...I've
had it."*

*"I figured they'd
start shooting
...anytime."*

The long, hot chase

The passenger gave up quickly; he wanted out. Here he tells his story



Photos: John Heston

He gives his name as Byron Nelson. He is 18. He is neat, polite and uses a lot of Yes Sirs, and No Sirs, and Yes Ma'ams and No Ma'ams in his speech. He is articulate, soft spoken; good-looking with long curly hair. He is almost "pretty."

Before him on the coffee shop counter is an uneaten hamburger. He stares at it, finally sends it back before he leaves the place. "I'm just really not hungry. Nervous, I guess."

When he was released from jail, he went almost immediately to a pay phone in a parking lot near the jail. He called a Mr. Fisher - "Grandpa" - for whom he works back in Saugus. He is very concerned with what Grandpa will think. Grandpa is kind of straight-laced with a built-in aversion to dope, particularly as sometimes used by his grandson.

Young Nelson "opens up" to the News-Letter reporters and photographers; he's alone, a long way from home and is hoping for a little moral support until friends can drive up from Hollywood several hours later to take him home:

News-Letter: What happened? How did all this get started?

Nelson: Down near Saugus. Chip and I were helping Grandpa...Had to repossess a washer and dryer for Sears. We were going to Palmdale and

we were a little ahead of time, so we decided to just drive around for awhile. We were in Chip's truck...And...Well, we smoked about a joint and a half of marijuana. Chip drank three beers...

N-L: Okay, then what happened?

N: Well, he started driving kind of fast and he told me "I want to be free!" Kind of crazy, I thought. Then around Lancaster I saw the red light behind us. I told him to slow down; the cops were behind us. He better stop. He just kept going! He wasn't shakey or scared, just kind of staring straight ahead. It was like he didn't care.

N-L: Why didn't he pull over?

N: I don't know. He just kept going and he kept saying over and over, "I want to be free, I want to be free!" Chip hasn't been really all together since he got hurt in a head-on collision about three months ago.

N-L: How did you feel about all that?

N: I was scared. I didn't know what to do. We were going somewhere around eighty or maybe more. I couldn't get out, I figured well, we're going to wreck. Several times it looked like he was losing control - it's a little truck - but

he made it every time, just going like crazy...

N-L: Now how fast do you say you were going? The officers said near a hundred or more.

N: I thought only around eighty or so. I know Chip never got out of fourth gear. I don't know if that little truck will do a hundred. He just kept going north and he never slowed down at all. He wasn't talking, just going right on ...Cops behind us, and, well,...I just didn't know what was going to happen. Nothing I could do, so I just sat back and went with it...

N-L: Did he ever say anything? Was he laughing?

N: He never laughed once, except he kind of snickered once when one of the Highway patrol cars pulled out - out of gas I guess - and he said "Well, we might even make it to Reno..."

N-L: Well, you finally got this far and ran out of gas. How were you feeling then?

N: Well, there were all those guns, and I saw you guys pull up over on the other side of the road...Oh, man...television cameras, and then the officers got on the loudspeaker and told you to get your car out of the way...When they said that, I figured they were going to start shooting; you were in their line of fire ...Then I heard the loudspeaker telling us to get out of the truck...And Chip didn't move a muscle, just kept staring straight ahead. He wouldn't even put his hands behind his head... I didn't know what to do: I put both my hands out the window to surrender. When I rolled the window down, the cops must have thought I was going to start shooting. I put my hands on my head, like they ordered us to...And then, Oh man!, then that policeman came over to the window with a shotgun...I figured maybe he was going to blow us away. I was just scared!... and Chip just kept staring straight ahead and wouldn't obey them...Crazy!

N-L: And...?

N: Well, I didn't know whether they were going to shoot us or what. I guess if we had been in L.A., they would have started shooting right from the first...Well, then I kind of started to get out, but one of the officers opened the door and dragged me out on the highway. They had got to Chip over on the other side and he was down, but I couldn't see what was happening. I kind of had enough problems over on my side of the truck. They were kind of rough, but I could see why; Chip wouldn't do a thing they told him to. One of the officers sat on me and that kind of ground my face into the pavement - That's why I got these scratches on my face. I just relaxed and let them do what they wanted. I didn't want to argue about anything!...Well, they got me into a patrol car. I didn't have any idea where I was...somewhere out on the desert.

N-L: How long do you figure that wild ride lasted?

N: I lost track of all time. I was scared all the way. Figured if they didn't force us off the road or start shooting, then we'd have a wreck anyway...But now, I guess we made the whole trip from Lancaster in about an hour and a half ...How far is it...about a hundred and sixty miles? Well, I don't know for sure. It was a pretty fast trip. I'll tell you one thing, the Datsun people ought to hear about it; I thought the little truck would just blow up, or over-heat or something. That's some pickup, and I'm not kidding! All the way, I'd look back and see one patrol car, then another, and another, and another...Some of them would drop out and some others would take their place. I guess the officers were running out of gas. We never did, til we got clear up here....

Continued page 41

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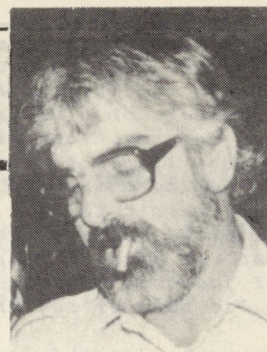
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Wally's View



Wally
Charleston

Life with a loser: Wally writes off his political campaign as maybe a paragraph for the bio. But he's still on his "clean government" kick...an indication that you can get a man down, but not out. In this column: the "Motel 6" controversy; Willy's woes down at the bar and grill; and how do you cover up an earthquake?

LIFE MOVES ON. My "political period" is over - maybe just a short chapter for the bio later on. No more soft handshakes and polite smiles. No more tough questions. No more emotional "Clean up Government" campaign speeches. The votes are tallied and it's onward to the General Election in November. Onward to your choice of incumbent Supervisor Don Sharp or Real Estate Broker, E.L. Maner. It's all taught me one thing: A maverick reporter/political reformer in Mammoth Lakes is about as popular as a peanut farmer at a popcorn convention.

Nevertheless, to all that helped and continue to hold the faith, thank you for the privilege.

MOTEL 6 "Big Money" squashed the lawsuit heard in Bridgeport Superior Court last month. So says Steve Ganong, the young principled citizen who brought the suit, and so says Judge Harry Roberts who dismissed it "with prejudice."

Ganong said that he and his lawyers, Greg James and Mike Berger, are friends. Costs would have run into many thousands of dollars to continue. More than a hundred hours may have gone into the preparation of the case.

Then it became apparent that the supervisors could have changed the zoning ordinance to put the Motel 6 situation in compliance. The Motel 6 attorney had an amendment already drafted and ready to hand to the board if things didn't work out for the motel.

County Counsel Neil Van Winkle refused to answer this reporter's questions about an attempt to change the zoning ordinance. He is stonewalling the whole thing.

And studying elements of the case, this reporter turned up a significant number of irregularities as the Motel 6 project was ramrodded through our county government. It all smacks of "packaging" for the developers by our county officials; Former Public Works Director Dick Pool apparently engineering it (and at one point postponing his resignation until the issue of the grading

permit was resolved by the board), backed up by Building and Planning Director Bob Sandy, in a farce of an environmental study...and acted on questionably by four members of the board of supervisors. Sharp's was the only dissenting vote.

When Ganong heard that a group of citizens are presently gathering signatures on a petition calling for a grand jury investigation of the irregularities he commented, "Cherish the thought. I think it would be wonderful."

Me too.

POOR JOHN TAYLOR of Willy's Bar and Grill fame. He says the profits of his booze and disco business are eaten up in gasoline bills traveling back and forth to Bridgeport.

In June, Supervisor Don Sharp, continuing his attempts



"Willy's" John Taylor

No boatride, thanks

to shut down "all operations" in the Mammoth Grand Motel, was once again unsuccessful. Taylor, now a seasoned veteran of the board meetings, argued he'd performed the wishes of the board and should not be included in any shutdown order. He says his

own permit runs into 1981 and a board action to stop his business will result in litigation. Taylor said, "If others in the building are going down - I don't want to be in that boat."

The board then gave the MGM two weeks to meet all requirements. They didn't exclude Willy's Bar and Grill when they said they'd "red-tag" every operation. We should be seeing sparks fly just about the time this publication is on the streets of Mammoth...

DR. MARVIN HEINSOHN, the public school's honcho, is pressing for the relocation of the elementary school. He has widespread support from all corners in Mammoth Lakes. Petitions are circulating and action is expected sometime during the summer months. Rah Rah, Heinsohn...

ONCE AGAIN, the Mono Board of Supervisors tries to bury the issue of low cost housing. They defied the recommendations of IMAGE (Inyo Mono Agency on Government Entities) that a task force of local, concerned citizens be designated to study the problems and work out resolutions. The Board (Sharp) appointed Tom Revelle, a developer dead set on keeping low cost housing out, Evan Russell, press coordinator for Mammoth Mountain Ski area, also a questionable choice: Jay Cole of the *Lakes District Review*, who depends on advertising of expensive properties: Gail Frampton, vice-president of Dempsey Construction, certainly a lousy choice, etc, etc, etc...

When in Hell has any member of this "task force" ever experienced the need for low-cost housing or spoken out in favor of it???

SCHOOL MAY BE CLOSED for the year but Joe Maruca, Mammoth's lovable principal, won't soon forget the end of this year's session. Maruca tempered things expertly with the infiltration of the elementary school kids into the high school, for lack of any other school at all. It was "Hi, pal. You got any problems?" as he made his rounds.

Broad smiles all over the campus when the kids saw him coming. Maruca said, "It's fun to talk to knee-high kids for a change. Makes me wish I was back teachin'."

Having spent an hour with him, if I'd had a teacher like Maruca when I was in school, I'd never have become such a delinquent...(!)

Coupled with the St. Helens activity, the Eastern Sierra Mountain range rumbled into the national news. Earthquakes plagued us for a few days and will "continue to make everyone nervous" for months to come says Dr. Roger W. Sherburne, a seismologist for the California Division of Mines and Geology.

Business people from the Mammoth Lakes area got together at Discovery 4 Condos about the publicity the earthshaking events generated. "It did a lot of harm", Carolyn Cole of the *Lakes District Review* said. She says tourism dropped off and business was affected and "something's got to be done to prevent the kind of information that got out from reaching the news services..."

I knew Mono County was pretty adept at covering some things up....But, an earthquake???

A LAST WORD about a "future"



Mammoth businessman Tom Farnetti
TV shook up the business community

Photos:
Wally Charleston

for Mammoth:

Mammoth lifestyle is finally generating a lot of public opinion. We're a "boom town" of economic and physical growth. It's

a safe bet that our growth will continue. Dave McCoy, owner of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area needs growth to compete as the

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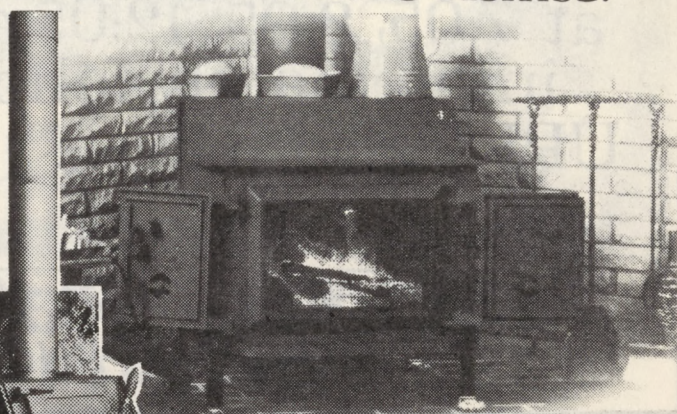


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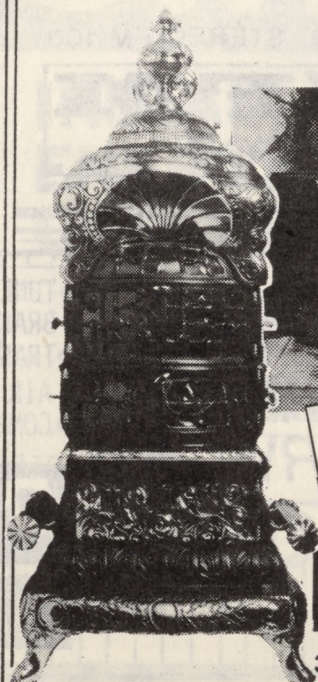
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finest winter resort in California. And the Village, to be consistent with those plans, must follow. Growth is inevitable. It's in our best economic and sociological interests.

We must, however, decide if we want to continue the pattern of growth without having reached solutions to problems already bothering us: Transportation, roads, housing, congestion, schools, density factors are as yet unresolved in the total planning concept. Residents must decide if the patterns of growth we are experiencing, are truly representative of our best interests in the future. They must ask if the area is maturing as a first class tourist attraction in keeping with their own comfortable lifestyle, which is their most precious right.

Moving a community forward - in a direction dedicated to improving the lifestyle and prosperity of its residents - calls for boundless wisdom. It's necessary that leadership plugs away at improving existing properties as well as developing new ones. Areas in great need of repair should spruce up and be revitalized. Downtown businesses need exterior cosmetic facelifts. Streets, schools and sewers are priorities of immediate concern.

With proper attention and responsible leadership, we who live in Mammoth can experience exciting years ahead. With proper attention to both - our commercial/residential development and the natural environment - generations to come will be the true beneficiaries of thoughtful action.

We who live in Mammoth would like to see that written into our futures...

Enjoy Summer.

Wally

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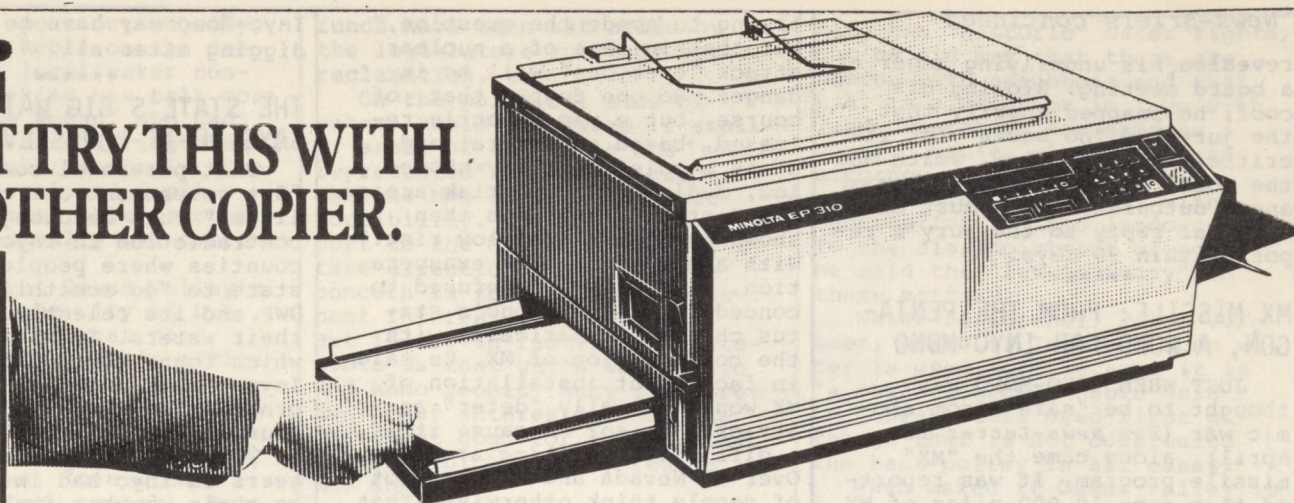


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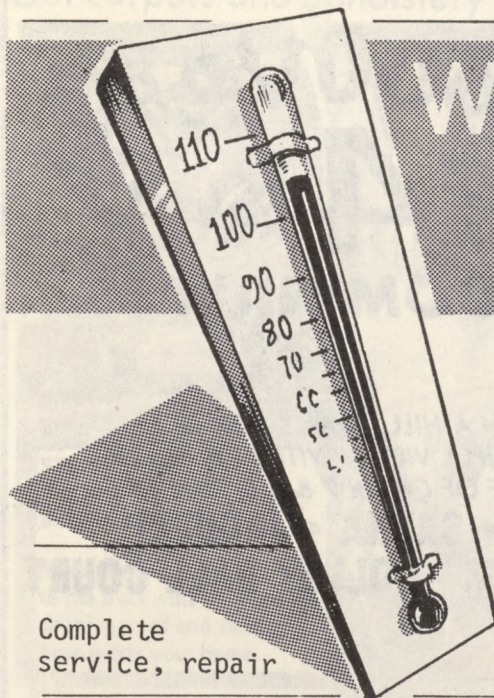
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revealed his underlying anger at a board meeting. Blowing his cool, he snapped angrily that the jury had "no basis" for its criticisms. Under law, Smith and the board will have to go beyond angry outbursts: They must make a formal reply to the jury's report within 90 days.

MX MISSILE: FROM THE PENTAGON, A WORD FOR INYO-MONO

JUST WHEN INYO-MONO was thought to be "safe" from atomic war (See *News-Letter* for April), along came the "MX" missile program. It was reported that some 10,000 miles of MX roads will be built in Utah and Nevada - parts of it no more than 120 miles from the Eastern Sierra. Will such proximity to the national defense project bring Inyo-Mono into the prime target category?

Hoping to get an answer to the question, *News-Letter* went straight to Washington's Pentagon and there found another disgruntled officer very defensive about the elaborate (and, some say, hopeless) MX plan. Reached at his Pentagon office, Lt. Col. Jesse Ford was asked if the proposed installation will in any way endanger Inyo-Mono. He said that he "isn't

trying to evade the question," but that in case of a nuclear attack "everyone" will be in danger. No one doubts that, of course, but a map recently released, based on federal and state studies, clearly showed low, medium and high risk areas. The Eastern Sierra was then shown as definitely "low risk." With a high degree of exasperation, Lt. Col. Ford refused to concede that Inyo-Mono's status changed dramatically with the construction of MX. He said, in fact, that installation of MX would actually "deter" an attack. How so? "Because it is a difficult targeting area." Over in Nevada and Utah, a lot of people think otherwise; that the Russians would aim their first, all-out fire at the MX system, hoping to knock out defenses. Ford argued it this way: "What I don't want to give you is a direct quote on that. You can't predict...but a civilian firm is working on an environmental impact statement for the Air Force on MX." The problem, as *News-Letter* later found out, is that the impact report does not include California. Do we then have legitimate concerns? Ford wouldn't say. He sees the angry dialogue as "the democratic process in action." If the Russians do much more sword rattling, it may be that

Inyo-Mono may have to start digging after all.

THE STATE'S BIG WATER MAN SAYS DO-IT-YOURSELVES

That perennial complaint, "Get government out of our lives," runs headlong into a contradiction in Inyo and Mono counties where people want the state to "do something" about DWP and its relentless draw on their waters. It is a paradox which found no resolution at an Inyo dinner meeting with California's Department of Water Resources Director Ron Robie.

The Society of Civil Engineers in Inyo had invited Robie as their speaker for an annual dinner meeting at Big Pine's Knight Manor.

The water man offered many words of praise for the Mono Lake Task Force recommendations. He said that on proposed legislation for protecting the lake there has been "a lot of hand-wringing over water rights. The task force did not intend L.A. to relinquish water rights but for the city to take responsible action to implement a plan for the protection of the lake."

Robie, a small, wiry man of considerable poise, doggedly fielded questions for more than two hours.

In some cases the challeng-

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ing audience spoke out angrily, trying to put Robie on the defensive about local water controversies. Making his talk more difficult, one woman, who had drunk far too much during dinner, heckled him embarrassingly. Robie kept his cool and dealt with the uncomfortable moments. The woman eventually was carried from the room.

Quizzed about Owens Valley's problems with the City of L.A., Robie pointed out that the state attorney general's office had, in past years, acted as a mediator in water discussions. The director stressed the importance of a local groundwater management plan, "one with a minimum" of state control. Some in the audience insisted that it is up to the state to help Inyo and Robie admitted, "You have a very interesting situation. If you try for local control, L.A. opposes it. You need to find a way that L.A. will tolerate and that is okay for Inyo...This is the major stumbling block."

Asked about a subject that the city of L.A. has so far refused to take seriously as an integral part of water management-water conservation - Robie said that "conservation is important - in different areas to different degrees." He said

funds have been set aside by the legislature to study water reclamation, too.

On the political side of water, Robie was asked if smaller areas of the state are "really represented" or if the clout of DWP and MWD overshadows that possibility. Said Robie, "we report to the Governor. We don't take direction from L.A. Our concern is for what is in the best interest of the state." But it is, in fact, such statements as that which worry Inyo and Mono people. Many interpret the "best interest" to be the "greatest good for the greatest number" which plainly reside in Los Angeles.

Supervisor-elect, P.D. Cook, asked Robie what is being done toward the reuse of water in Los Angeles. Robie said that "distribution systems are very expensive. They're having some real economic problems with that. It's difficult to raise costs to make up for these things."

President of the Engineers Society, Gordon Holmes, asked Robie about the "conflict between water and property rights. Can you lower water under my property to the detriment of the land?"

In essence, Robie replied that you can. He said that the

city has "historic" water rights, but he did say that these are shared with neighbors and that L.A. is a neighbor in Inyo with land ownership "the same as yours." Robie, who is also an attorney, was asked if this issue could go to court with success for an Inyo landowner. To the disappointment of some, he said the "law is fuzzy" in these matters.

Water researcher, Peter Vorster, asked if Inyo and Mono water is used more because it is "a cheap source." Robie said the cheapest is used first although that is not considered the best policy in all cases.

When asked if Owens Valley is in an overdraft situation, Robie said that the area is "not in a traditional overdraft, but there are environmental impacts," a point supporting Inyo's anti-groundwater pumping arguments.

And when questioned on why Inyo county has no water management plan, Robie became vague. He was asked why the state hasn't worked for this. Robie said that the state could help with "technical advice" but added, "if we did it, you probably wouldn't like it. It's the legal responsibility of the board of supervisors to adopt and implement a water management

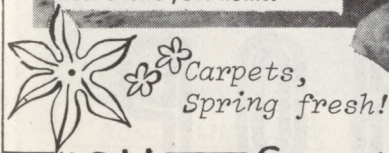
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Robie Continued

plan." And Robie later said "I'm here to suggest basic policy issues and if you expect someone else to solve your problems, that's a serious mistake."

Leah Nichols asked Robie if he had seen Inyo's proposed groundwater ordinance. He said his staff had reviewed it and that "I think they found it favorable."

A main thrust of Robie's talk was that the state government "can not work miracles" amid the many water controversies. He continued to stress the importance of local control and local efforts to solve problems ...He told one questioner that it was up to him to complain to his supervisors...that Robie was not there to do that. But lately there has been little if any success locally at handling the DWP problem. The people, losing faith in their local



Ron Robie

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July 30-Aug. 5

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"SINBAD-EYE OF THE TIGER" G

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"LAST FLIGHT of NOAH'S ARK" &

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leaders, have looked to the state for help. But Robie indicated that the answers to Inyo's problems do not lie in Sacramento.

Q: What do you think of the Mono Lake Task Force report?

A: Our DWR was the chair of the task force (Jack Coe). We think the task force report is correct. It should be implemented, and it's in the public interest. And all I can say is we're very proud of it and we'll do everything we can to implement it.

Q: What about the Inyo - L.A. battle?

A: I think in the last few years the county of Inyo and the city of Los Angeles...by bringing in the U.S. Geological Survey and our department in terms of this recently completed phase 1 study of data gathering and data analysis for the valley - are beginning to bring forth a common base on which to work. But we're talking about a political solution between Inyo and Los Angeles that will require the decision makers of the two jurisdictions getting together and agreeing and being willing to live in peace together and to de-escalate their conflict. And that is something that can come only ultimately through the political will of the local

jurisdiction here and the city of Los Angeles.

Q: What do you think about the much-discussed California water shortage?

A: A lot of growth...in the old days people put projects together quickly and they built them without environmental concerns. And nowadays we're seeing a whole new approach to how water is managed. So water is talked about as being in short supply because it is. And we're just in a different era. (varying situations dry-wet years)

Q: How long can Owens Valley supply the growing demands on water?

A: Los Angeles people use only a portion of their supply from the Owens Valley...they have other sources...and I think the ability of the Owens Valley to supply water to Los Angeles is the ultimate question now in dispute between L.A. and Inyo. And I really don't have any answer to that. But I do think that there should be some agreement between the County and the City as to what the reasonable limits of this community here are to provide water taking into account the environmental and other needs of Inyo County and that's really the ultimate question. If I had the answer to that we could resolve years of

controversy...I don't.

TURNED OFF BY A 45, DWP METER MAN FILES CHARGES

DWP'S METER READER and water turn-off man, Bob Hayner, is pressing the "brandishing" case

Connie
Johnson
and (in-
set) Bob
Hayner

Disputed
turn-off
and a .45



he filed against a Big Pine businessman and home owner, Conrad "Connie" Johnson. When Hayner came to Johnson's home to turn off the water for non-payment of bill, the Johnsons argued that it

Continued next page

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had been paid - an argument supported (too late it seems) by DWP's admission that in fact the Johnsons' check was at the DWP office, but Hayner had not been notified. At the door, however, as Hayner claims, he was met by an irate Johnson armed with a "Colt 45." Hayner fled, "rolled up the windows of his truck, and drove off." It was reported that he talked to his superiors in DWP's office, but was met with little more than a few laughs. He then went out, and on his own, filed a charge. Johnson has asked for a jury trial which, as the month opened, was still pending. Does Hayner have a case? Hard to say. Johnson admits producing the gun, but he hopes to convince a jury that he did so in defense of his property, since even DWP admits Hayner appeared because of a foul-up in DWP turn-off orders. "And besides," says Johnson, "the gun wasn't loaded." But that means little in a "brandishing" charge.

DESPITE PROTESTS, INYO NAMES A COUNTY COUNSEL

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAD been willing, even eager, to provide an attorney for the exclusive use of the Inyo Board of Supervisors. But they were having none of that; personal feelings ran much too deep. So, in spite of widespread public protest, and in spite of a cost that will strain still further

an already austere county budget, the supervisors pushed through their plan to establish a county counsel's office. They named former Deputy DA Dennis Myers to the position, then quickly authorized him to hire another applicant, Greg James, as an assistant. That gave rise to more than a little courthouse speculation: Had Myers and James, as applicants, made a private agreement before the appointment - one that would in effect guarantee the other a job?

Myers insists that there was no such agreement. Next question: What will the county counsel's office cost the Inyo taxpayers? It was reported that of a proposed budget of \$72,000 (Unofficial estimates set it closer to \$125,000), \$50,000 was "transferred from the DA's budget. . . The new county office is likely to be a busy one: At present, no fewer than a dozen lawsuits involving Inyo County are pending. They range from private suits against the county to the DWP litigation. In the latter case, Myers and his assistant have expressed the hope that the county will in fact keep Special Counsel Antonio Rossmann. It had been rumored that with the new soft-line view of the board, Rossmann might be dumped along with DA Gibbons.

JUNE MOUNTAIN "PROBLEMS": RUMORS, OR REALITY?

FOR DAYS, PLENTY OF RUMORS about the June Mountain ski area had drifted easily, a few words at a time, into reporters' notebooks, but real hard-fact information about annual health and safety inspections at the mountain was harder to come by.

The Forest Service bureaucracy at Bishop and in Mono was plainly determined to keep a tight lid on matters in which they are deeply concerned and for which they are ultimately responsible. Pressed for information, some USFS spokesmen finally confirmed that inspections by the Mono Health Department and by the State Department of Industrial Safety had resulted in reports that amounted to somewhat less than glowing accolades for the ski resort and its management. According to Mono Health Inspector Dennis Lampson, the health reports had been turned over to the Forest Service. Once there, they were quickly buried from public view, and the Forest Service personnel seemed determinedly bent on concealing information they might contain. But the men in green, pressed for details, finally hinted that perhaps all is not well at the ski area, at least not right now. Lampson had gone so far as to say that he had inspected the ski facility's cafeteria, and that the state in-

Job seekers

There they sat, awaiting a decision from the board of supervisors meeting nearby in "executive session." It would be a decision that would affect for better or worse their legal careers. They were the applicants for the job of Inyo County Counsel: Greg James, Dennis Myers, and Ben Combs. Myers was chosen.





Two passengers were injured, one severely, when a small plane overshot the Independence airstrip and crashed.

Pilot Edward Lindros was flying to San Diego following a Mammoth holiday. Short of fuel, he attempted - three times - to set his small plane down at Independence. On a fourth try, after apparently misreading wind direction, he crashed. He and another passenger walked away, but two were hurt.

Photos:
Benett Kessler
John Heston



spectors looked over the buildings and the lifts. There are, he confirmed, "numerous problems," but he declined to elaborate beyond "There will have to be repairs to walls, and there are cleaning problems."

The "problems" may or may not exist beyond the "normal" operative conditions. As the Forest Service points out, some of its own reluctance to discuss the matter has to do with the fact that all such facilities are inspected at the end of each season and that they are "usually" corrected before the beginning of the next.

But that costs money, sometimes a lot. And in the case of June Mountain, money may be the problem. Rumors again, but rumors at least half verified in the expressions of concern from USFS people.

Dick Sereno, a Forest Service administrative officer, was asked if in fact the ski facility had lagged behind in its fee payments to the Forest Service. "Yes, but they are taking care of those problems." He explained that a debt had been "accumulated" over the past two years, but that Bud Hayward, June Mountain's owner-operator, had entered into a "promissory note" arrangement in which the fees will be paid. By the beginning of the new season, the

note will be "zeroed out," in Sereno's words. Sereno also admitted that June Mountain has "plant problems." At first, he referred inquiries to the Lee Vining USFS office where Tom Balint agreed that "There are a lot of rumors - but we are trying to have a workable situation." Asked to describe the content of the health and safety reports, Balint firmly declined. "I'm afraid I can't do that. That information is confidential."

In that, Balint is mistaken. County health records and state safety records are "public," and Forest Service records are also open to public scrutiny under the Freedom of Information act. But such technical fine points are lost upon Inyo's and Mono's bureaucracy. The reporters went back to Sereno who offered a more or less reasonable explanation:

"What we're talking about is an annual inspection of public facilities, the ski areas. They're on National Forest leases. We see that the proper agencies carry out these inspections. At June, the inspections were carried out. There are always things that need fixing, and the permittee is expected to perform the maintenance before opening in the fall." Asked about the reports and whether he had heard of their content, he

said, "If somebody tells me something, I have no reason not to believe it - or to believe it - until I see the reports."

At Sacramento, Ron Waylon of the Industrial safety department, was somewhat less reticent about safety reports on the ski lifts; but in them he saw "nothing unusual," although he said some more-or-less routine repair work must be done.

Hayward himself said, "We get inspections annually. And we get a list as long as your arm. But that's nobody's business but mine. Every year there is maintenance. We will be updating the lifts. We have no problem with the lifts, but found out that we have a model that has had problems in other (ski) areas. It's kind of like Ford recalling a Pinto."

Hayward also said that there had been water damage in the cafeteria structure due to a leak, and to heavy snow. He denied that the earthquakes had caused structural problems. He called the "problems" at the ski lift "routine," and gave assurances that by the opening of the new season all will be corrected. Then were the dire rumors spread by disgruntled employees? Possibly so.

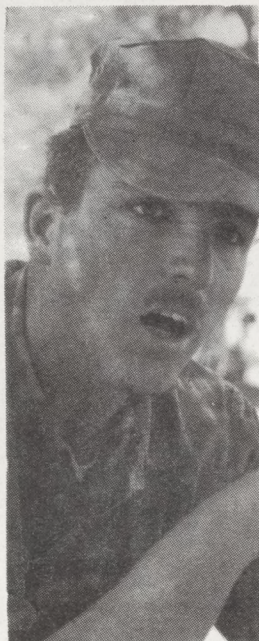
The Forest Service, protective at least for now, is taking a wait-and-see attitude. ■

Marines, Continued

they had been in training science and technology, Marines not only train in traditional avenues of jungle, desert and city fighting but they must also learn to test the atmosphere for radioactivity, caustic chemicals and deadly microbes, and protective decontamination procedures. Asked if this was a "special" training, the reply from Lance Corporal Paul Frantz was that it is just part of their "general education", nothing out of the ordinary.

With permission from the Company Commander, Lt. Mike Hanaway from Texas, *News-Letter's* Bishop representative mingled amongst the troops. He learned that most had been in the Corps for a year and a half or two, average age 21. Smoking is on the downswing among the men and for those "old" vets of the Vietnam era, you wouldn't be able to find a sample pack of cigarettes in the modern-day "C" Rations. Uncle Sam put a stop to that. Flame-thrower tanks are out, as well as the 106mm recoilless rifle, at least for the infantry. As little time as these Marines have been in service, many had traveled to Okinawa and the Philippines to be on "alert", and to practice amphibious landings. None who were asked, said they plan to make the service a

career, and, finally, no one would make a guess as to where the Marines will go next, which can only typify that unofficial Marine Corp Saying, "First to go, last to know".



Lance Corporal
Paul Frantz

Company
Commander
Lt. Mike
Hanaway

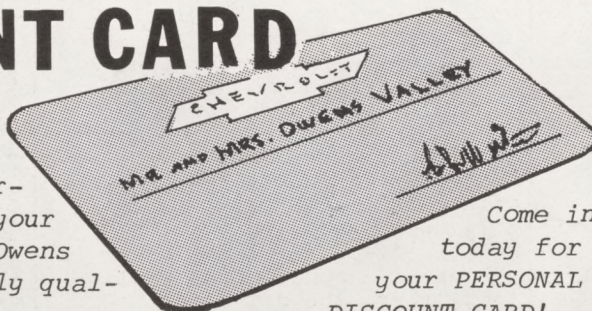


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LONE PINE

Chase Story Continued

N-L: Well, that mixture of beer and dope kind of works on people doesn't it?

N: Okay, you may think I'm kidding, but I'm quitting it. I quit once or twice before. But no matter what they say, it does work on your mind somehow. I've really thought it over: No more dope for me. I've had it...Grandpa's going to give me a bad time, I guess...I hope he can understand it wasn't all my fault. He's going to be mad because we didn't get our work done...

As a matter of fact, "Grandpa" was relatively patient when he talked to newsmen. But in a telephone call he said "I hope you can get it through that kid's head this time that he ought to lay off marijuana and watch out who he associates with. I don't bother him about it much, but he know's he's going to have trouble with it...Oh, God, I guess this thing is going to be on television; I want to see it..."

Officers filled in the rest of the story as best they themselves could piece it together. Patrol cars from Lancaster, Mojave and Ridgecrest had joined in the chase at one time or another. The Inyo County officers, including some from the sheriff's office, joined the chase somewhere near Inyo-Kern county line. When the Datsun ran out of gas - finally - about a half-dozen patrol cars surrounded the vehicle. At one point in the chase a highway patrol car had actually passed the smaller vehicle, but officers did not wish to run it off the road; that patrol car pulled over and let the speeding pickup go on. Officers said they had in fact clocked the pickup at near a 100 miles an hour...Said one highway patrolman: "That Datsun should be placed in the Smithsonian Institute... We were running

Continued next page

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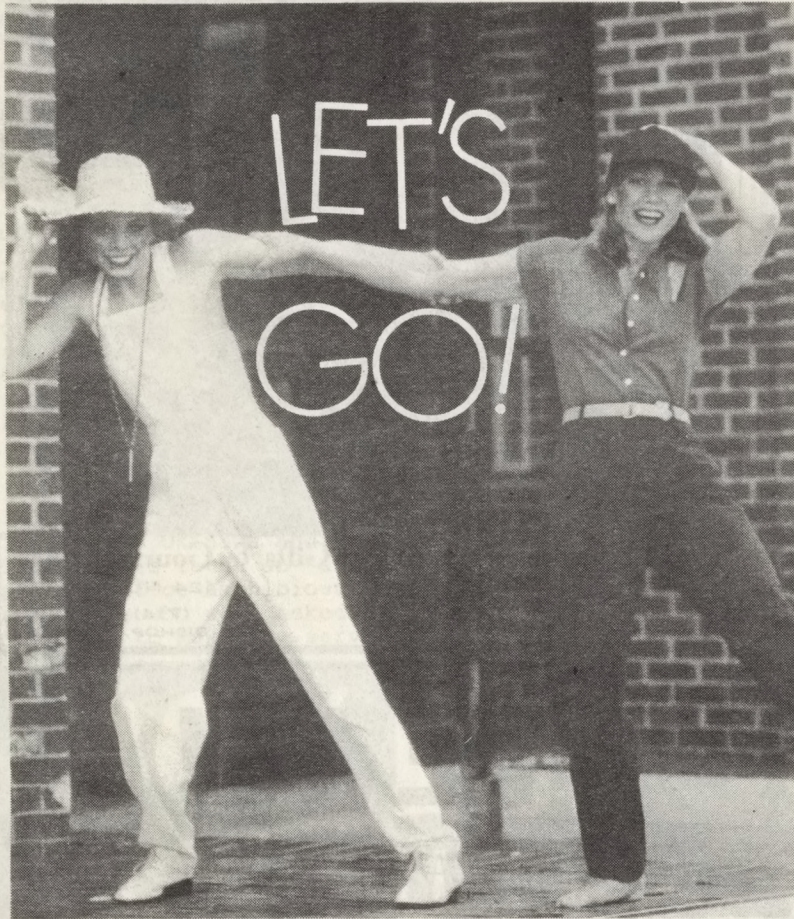
Chase Story Continued

out of gas and overheating; He just kept going. All we really had on him was a speeding and reckless driving charge - but then in Mojave we got a citizen report that said the boys were armed. You don't just start shooting or running people off the road if you don't have an actual charge against them. We decided to just let them run out of gas, but it took a long time."

The driver, Charles Vaden, 20, is said to have suffered head injuries and fractures in his right hand in his earlier collision. Nelson said his

hands "shook all the time", and that he had lingered in a coma during much of his hospitalization following the accident. Once in jail, Vaden at first refused to make bail when it was allowed. Officers say he will have to answer to charges of speeding, reckless driving and resisting arrest.

During the actual arrest on the highway, it took four officers to hold him down, and then several minutes were required to finally get him into the back of a sheriff's car.



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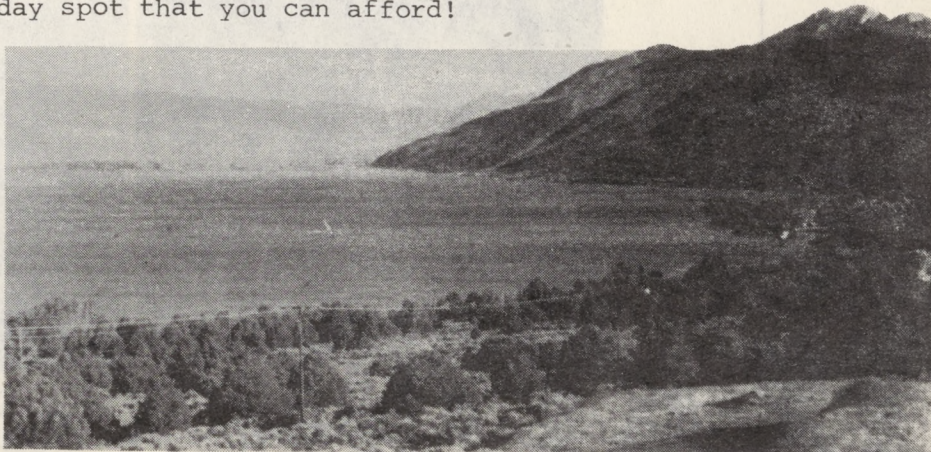
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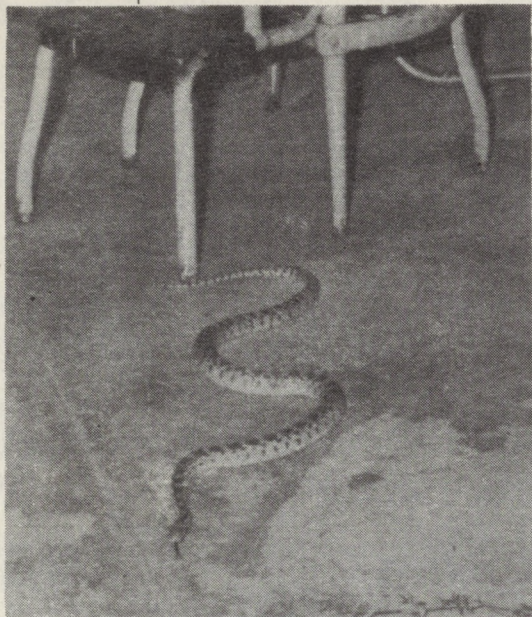
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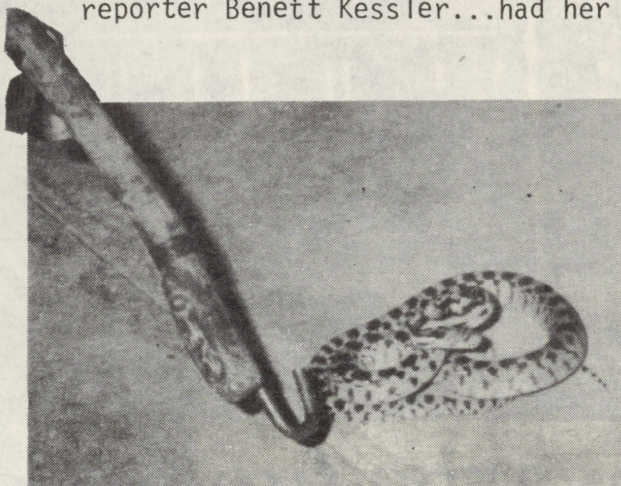
Topaz **LODGE**

Highway 395 at Topaz Lake

Fotopage



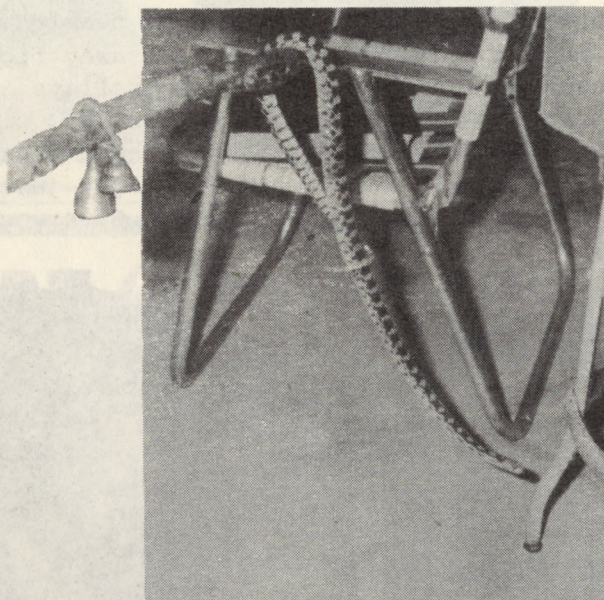
Inyo's district attorney, "Buck" Gibbons, walked out to his backyard one late afternoon and found a snake there. He called the news service: "Do you know anybody over there that knows anything about snakes? I'm not sure what this one is. I don't want to kill it unless I have to." Coincidentally, he called the right place. The editor himself had "a hook." And reporter Benett Kessler...had her camera.



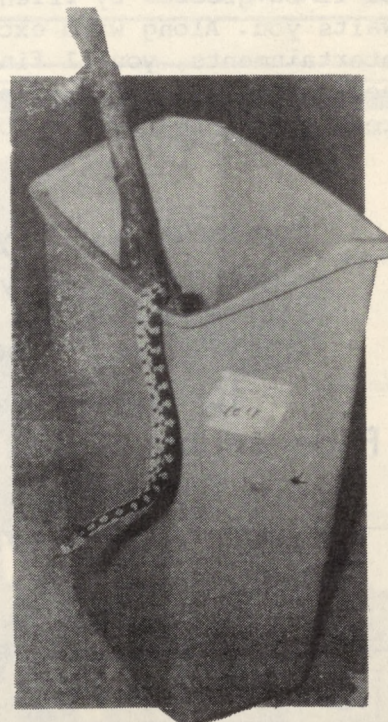
The snake coils and strikes out at the hook. Though not a rattler, he was mean and clearly ready to defend himself.

SNAKE STORY

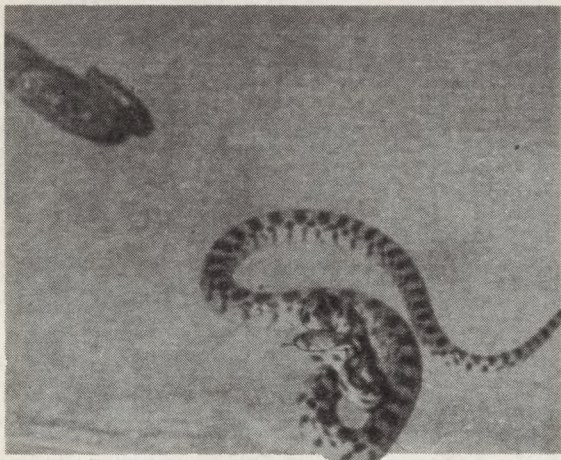
He slithers off the hook at the end of the stick, which was fashioned after the cobra sticks of India. The editor uses it on hikes in the mountains.



Into a plastic trash basket he goes, but he escapes after a final lunge of his head over the side.

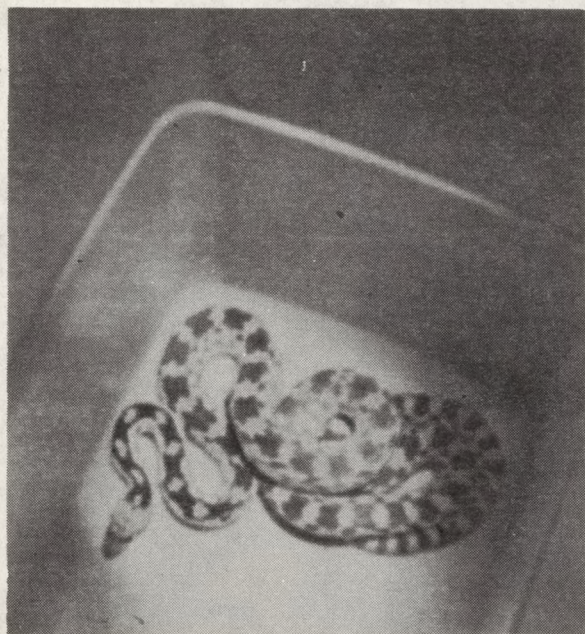
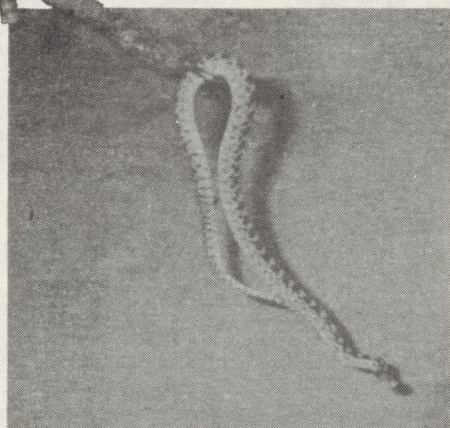


Photos: Benett Kessler



He's back on the patio,
lashing at the stick...

...but this
time he
goes into
the basket.
Unable to
see or
sense the
people
nearby, he
calms down.



He is later released in the desert.
Most of the valley's snakes are
harmless and play a key role in
the desert ecosystem. It is best
not to kill them.

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MAMMOTH
LAKES

Notes from B.K.

From Bishop to Topaz on an inexpensive vacation; plugs for some, and pans for others. Future fireworks on the Inyo board of supervisors as P.D. Cook suggests some changes. Kooky signs on Highway 395; And lots of VPP's and a non-VPP swinger.

THE MEDIA-AND-MOVIE FOLKS in LA and a few Southern Inyo viewers are still laughing at what must surely have been the television turkey of the year: Gene Autry, that Silver-Haired Baddy of all time, had himself featured in a KTLA Channel 5 "documentary" immodestly entitled *Gene Autry, An American Hero*. Autry even managed to wrangle a picture on the cover of *Television Times*. Most everyone knows, of course, that Autry owns KTLA, along with some other businesses and some kind of baseball team whose name I forget. Enviously stung by the "hero" fame of John Wayne, Autry apparently figured he better drag out his own image and polish it up a bit. The result: The June 24 Channel 5 airing of *Gene Autry, An American Hero*. Autry? A hero? Okay, and so I'm Clare Boothe Luce. It was a vainly self-serving flop, except for the horse which deserved a better supporting cast. In one of the re-run flicks, Autry sang a lot, made bad jokes with Pat Buttram who also deserved better, and called the stereotypical black hired hand "boy." Note to local Cable TV operators: Can we please dump Channel 5 and maybe get something for adults??? When it's roundup time in Texas, folks, I'd rather be practically anywhere else - and tuned to PBS.

THE BIG MANAZANAR PROJECT died aborning, as we all know, and in the hearts of a lot of southland Japanese there lingers no great love for the good folk of Inyo. This year, we somehow missed the "Manzanar Re-Union," and, noting the oversight, we got on the line to Sue Embry who usually directs that annual event, south of Independence. Embry chatted, not without a certain resentfulness, about the "project." Ruefully, she says she "understands" why Inyo might not want a rebuilt concentration camp in the Owens Valley, but she argues that at least the project, which would have stood as a reminder-memorial to Japanese-American injustice, might have helped to preserve the "ecology." She pointed out that if the state parks department (pressured by angry later-generation Japanese) had proceeded with the Manzanar project, it would have provided a kind of green spot in the desert. Presumably, DWP would have allowed some water to go there. Embry said she and other Japanese had attempted to work out a kind of compromise with Supervisor Johnny Johnson but that he had lobbied - effectively, it seems - at Sacramento against it. Scratch one profitable tourist attraction. Embry said she and the others were "shocked" to find such total opposition here. She mentioned that a Japanese television crew had travelled to Inyo to shoot a Manzanar documentary and that the crew was "met with suspicion by county officials."

"They thought the film crew was shooting propaganda for the Manzanar Committee," she said. The fact is, that Committee might have had their project had the younger Japanese been less eager to shove it down our throats. Inyoans don't re-

spond kindly to "demands."

VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE department: Bill Peterson of Lone Pine. A spirited guy who will serve on next year's grand jury. Of late, Peterson's been outspoken in the DWP issue.

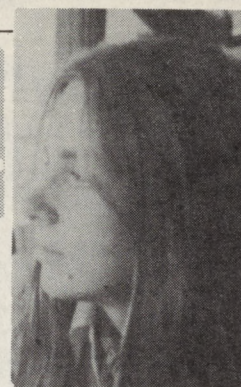
LOOK FOR FIREWORKS when Supervisor-elect P.D. "Dee" Cook takes office. Already, a number of controversies are quickly developing. For instance, Cook leans toward the let's-cut-expenses idea of government. On the other hand, he's already pushing hard for holding "at least one supervisors' meeting a month in Bishop," clearly a contradiction to saving money. Also, Cook is already nosing into the matter of how much money Special Counsel Antonio Rossmann is paid in fees for his DWP cases. He approached District Attorney "Buck" Gibbons on that matter and was told the figure (at least for now) is confidential. Also watch for a kind of political honeymoon between Cook and Johnny Johnson; they're getting their heads together on at least one or two county matters, like the "county



P.D. Cook and Supervisor "Lefty" Irwin
Victory toasts and political alliances

counsel" issue. But an alliance there may quickly end when Cook pushes for more money or services for Bishop. The Southern Inyo minority has about had it with Bishop's favored-area status.

Continued next page.



Benett
Kessler

NO-LOVE-LOST-AMONG-THE-SUPERVISORS DEPARTMENT: A quote from a local official in referring to another: "When I think of her, I think of what Winston Churchill once said. It seems that an irate female had told her opponent 'If you were my husband, I'd put poison in your soup!,' to which Churchill replied: 'Yes, Madame, and if you were my wife I'd drink it.'"

DON'T BLAME IT ALL ON THE SUPERVISORS. The fact is, a great number of people either don't know - or don't care - about public issues; or they get only half the facts, the half they want to hear. Unable to see the broader issues, they tend to ignore them or be unresponsive - until of course they get hit in the pocketbook. The supervisors' meetings may be a circus alright - but at least half of the clown show is made up of people who come before the board without getting their facts or who appear with such obvious selfish interest that even the supervisors are appalled. The controversies, the selfish interest matters, the egos, the petty grievances and vengeance amount to a courthouse nightmare. And that's where the money goes...

SPEAKING OF VENGEANCE: A DWP employee went recently into a Lone Pine business establishment claiming he wanted to "check some problem" with the electrical power. He proceeded to tell the owner that the establishment had the "wrong kind" of electrical system. The owner reasoned that the company had specifically ordered the brand-new system, that it in fact met all requirements and specifications. But the DWP man, obviously a spokesman for the DWP higher-ups, said "Oh, no. This must be another Wilson screw-up." The obvious reference was to Jack Wilson, the Lone Pine electrician who lately has been active in anti-DWP matters. Obviously unaware that the business-house owner was related to Wilson, the DWP man continued to bad-mouth the Wilson electrical firm. The Wilson family later called his hand and the red-faced DWP man became more conciliatory. As for the "electrical system," well, it was brand-new, precisely designed and installed for the building and its possible power usage. Probably one of Wilson's best made-to-order systems...

WORD IS OUT that there may soon be a new edition of the much-touted *California Water Atlas*. And, boy oh boy, could we use one! One with a little editorial revamping, of course. The last one, that cost a whopping \$40, was so full of distortions (The editors admitted they were "not allowed" to use any but DWP's statistics) that we couldn't really wade through it all to find anything really believable. The next issue may not be any breeze, either; Rumors to the effect that *Atlas'* guiding light, Bill Kahrl, may not find workers willing to go through another project such as the first one. At least one of the staff experts says he refuses to work with Kahrl anymore. Why? Low morale on the staff, bad "human relations."

ANOTHER PUBLICATION, THIS ONE WORTH READING: A biography of Dave McCoy's life. Demila Jenner of Benton is doing the bio. Our sources say Jenner may have had to cut some "inside" scoops about the McCoy life in order to get an "authorized" biography. We're looking forward to it. McCoy's a "silent" type, and not many know much about him or his thinking.

BY THE TIME THIS IS OUT, the Larry Luensers may be Mom and Dad. She was expecting in late June. Larry's the smooth talker with the un-

smooth music (Sorry, I don't dig rock) on KIOQ-FM's night programming. More good news for the Luensers; they've just won a free expense-paid trip to Las Vegas - to a hotel of their choice and, as Larry exclaims, *Eighteen* meals! - We'll be stuffed *sick*! But Vegas will probably have to wait arrival of the new Luenser...

ADD VPP DEPARTMENT: Mary and Bill Piggott, relative newcomers to the Sierra and to the Paradise area. They were observing their sev-



enth anniversary recently at Paradise Restaurant, and our cameraman caught them in a celebrating mood. Congratulations and best wishes.

LOOK FOR ANOTHER REAPPORTIONMENT of Inyo's supervisorial districts when the census figures come out in September. The one-man-one-vote idea is great - until Bishop gets it all. Some county officials are trying to reassure anyone concerned about the matter. They claim that about the worst that can happen would be to give Johnny Johnson all of the Big Pine district, and Wilma Muth more of Bishop. Southern Inyo representation is not likely to increase - not so long as the stranglehold on privately-owned land continues. There's just no room left for growth, and DWP likes it that way: Population means water usage - and votes.

LOOKING FOR AN INEXPENSIVE VACATION away from it all, but nearby enough to save gas? We've got it right here. Just for kicks (and we had a few!) we took off up Highway 395 one nice June day to look over the territory. Used a little over a tank of gas, there and back, but you'll do better with a smaller car. Great scenery, cool air blowing off green meadows. Charming communities: Walker, Coleville, etc. Good food and lodging all the way to Topaz. Good hotel accommodations at only \$16 (!) per night at Topaz Lodge. First-rate accommodations, too, at the Bodie Hotel (Rooms furnished with real antiques) at Bridgeport. Try it for a weekend, discover your own homeland.

AND BE SURE TO SEE "DR. JEAN'S SHINGLE" at the general store in Walker. Jean Gerbig's husband made it up to read: "Specializing in general practice, pediatrics, orthopedics and veterinary medicine." It all came about after she once had to remove an object caught in her daughter's throat, saving the child's life, and inadvertently removing the tonsils. When

Continued next page

she called the doctor to see what to do next, he told her to hang out a shingle and start practicing. Now she's moving on to bigger things: "I'm adding counselling and psychotherapy as soon as my husband makes the sign," says she. Add Jean to our VPP list.

ANOTHER SIGN THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE is pictured here. It's to be found in the old Pine Nut Casino at Topaz. you figure it out; if you



Sign at Lake Topaz's Pine Nut Lodge
Part of the scene on an inexpensive vacation

Photos: John Heston

can't, find the answer, upside down, at the bottom of this column.

AND MORE FOR THE DINING-OUT CROWD: John Morris turned up at Bishop's Whiskey Creek one June evening and, on questioning, offered his bit on what's happening at the old Mule City building. (Mule City, as a disco-dining place, turned out to be a flop. The dance-with-your cowboy-hat-on types literally drove off the trade that could afford dinner, and it turned into strictly a Coors stomp joint.) Morris says some out-of-towners, "the O'Days," will take over the place and return it to an Embers-like



John Morris and B.K. Mule City update

Sign at the Pine Nut reads "Toot Hpic Ksar Einh Olde Ronp Ostb Elow." When words are properly separated, ignoring capital letters, the innocuous message is "Tooth Picks are in holder on post below." Sign stands over entry to Pine Nut's slot machine room.

establishment - a place, as it once was, where families can go to dine in a certain dignified atmosphere. There'll be entertainment, of course, but of a tasteful kind, and even that will be separated from the dining area.

AND STILL MORE: Merton Pond's proud as punch of his new Longhorn dinner house in the Ponderosa Lanes building. Haven't run into anyone who's tried it, but Pond assures us he's added a touch of class. Prime rib, steak, etc. We'll be looking in one of these days.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE "NICE" PLACES? It's very simple: Noisy rock and roll, like we ran into at the Rafter's in Mammoth the other night. Came in for a late dinner (Everything else was closed) and there was no place far enough away from the band (That was a band?) even to talk, much less to dine. We looked in to discover just who could produce such cacophony and discord: A drummer in a trance who couldn't have kept time to an electronic metronome; a hunched guitarist whose nasal twang obscured any English words that may have been in the lyrics, and arrangements that would have embarrassed an aborigine - a few of which seemed to be shuffling around the dance floor. Recommendation to those places complaining of slow business: Try a soft combo, maybe some cool jazz. Then you'll get the crowd that can afford your menu prices. That advice comes from the Nevada casinos, and they should know. Try a little class.

IT'S OFF TO FOGGY OLD LONDON TOWN for Lloyd and Caroline Higuera. They're the ones who brought radio to life in Lone Pine. Caroline was born in England and she and Lloyd were married there too.

The Higuera's, including daughters Diana, 6, and Amy, 3, will spend three weeks in England's balmy summer. They will visit Caroline's parents who live near Canterbury. And Lloyd says he and the wife hope to take in a play or two in London.

Lloyd says July in England is a bit on the cool side - temperatures in the 60's and damp.

MEL BLEVINS, THE DWP SWINGER, is telling some local friends (?) how much he "impressed" me with his "dancing." We'd run into him when he was out on the town one night. According to his story I was so "impressed" that I even "apologized" for all those things I'd written about him and the lady(?) in the bare-back dress. Mel, check with Arthur Murray, and no more garlic for dinner either, okay? And Mel, let's make a deal: If you won't lie about me, I promise not to tell all the truth I know about you.

MORE VPP's: Leonard and Lena Sluyter who've returned home to rave about the Oberammergau performance they saw (for five hours) on a European tour. Nice trip: Germany, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Austria. The Sluyters, who are very knowledgeable about the places they visited, spoke - and wrote lengthily (Too lengthy to print here) - highly of the passion play. It is a once-in-a-decade happening in West Germany. 600 performers on an open air stage.

.. MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAY BE GOOD NEWS EVERY DAY...

Sincerely,

BK

JUST FOR YOU...



...WE MOONLIGHT A LOT

You've heard about us on radio, read about us in the papers, seen us on television - The AM-PM Markets. We're one of those, right here in Lone Pine, for your convenience. And when we say convenience, we really mean it. Like being open 24 hours a day, and carrying a full line of grocery items you may want at any time. You don't have to accommodate yourself to our hours, we're here to accommodate yours, all day, all night. Stop in and see what Al's AM-PM market can do for you -and for your pocketbook, too; look over our advertised specials every week!

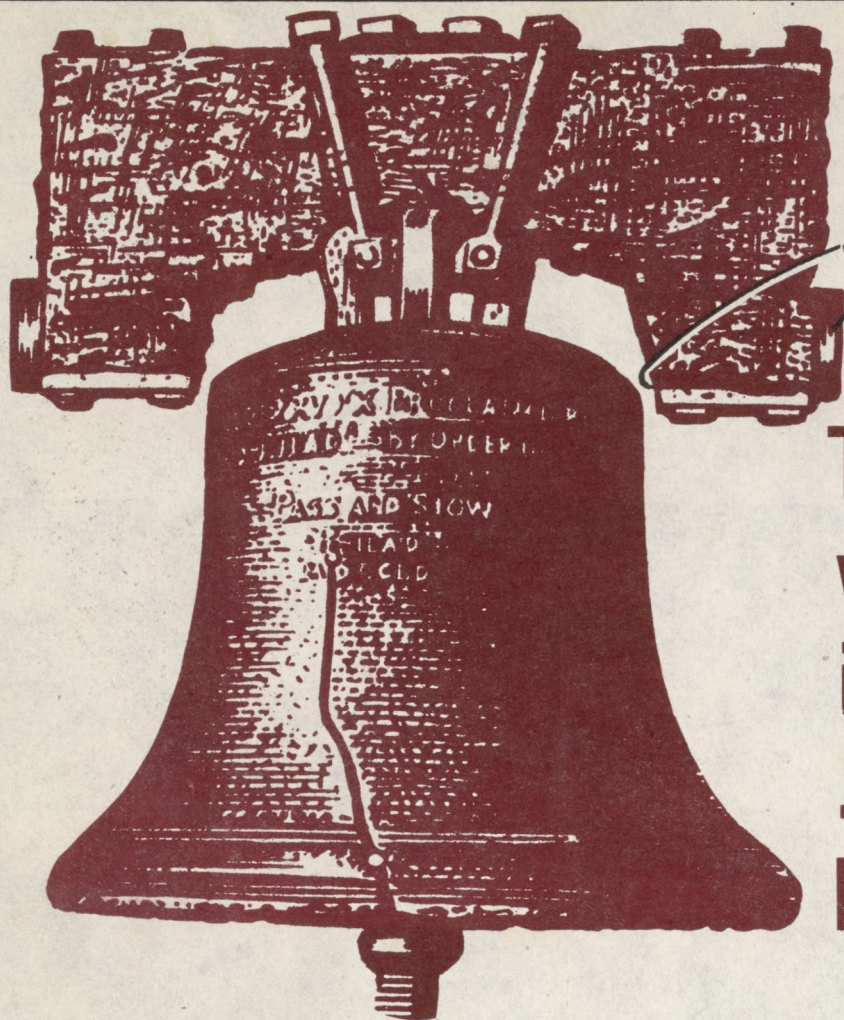
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BE EARNED!)

**The freedom
we celebrate
is not 'free'..
...and you can't
buy it, either.**

We've enjoyed a lot of freedom in 204 years. Maybe too much, lately. Too much self-indulgence, too much waste, too much fun. And now, in this time of shortages and crises, inflation and depression, what we're coming to learn is that freedom is not "free," that money and "programs" are more of a problem than a solution, that leisure sometimes weakens instead of strengthens. The fact is that freedom costs a lot: in terms of dedication and human life; in hard work and integrity; diligence and patience; education and creativity; enterprise and thrift; courage and conservation - the so-called "old values," including spiritual values. Freedom never was "free;" Ask any veteran of any war. There are no free rides; that's important to remember. But "freedom" will always be there, available, for those who prove themselves willing to earn it and sacrifice for it, willing to assume civic and political responsibility. We here at Cal-Tron think the people of the Eastern Sierra already understand that freedom is not "free," that it takes more than an occasional show of the flag. They've worked hard for it. And to them we are grateful both as citizen and neighbor.

**Grow
with us.**

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